





# 2 Home & Middle East News

Jordan Times, Tuesday, March 10, 1998

## Hizbollah rejects security guarantees for Israel

BEIRUT (R) — The leader of the Hizbollah said in remarks published Monday that the Beirut government should not give Israel security guarantees in the event of Israel's withdrawal from south Lebanon.

"Can anyone give the enemy what it wants in terms of security after all the aggressions it carried out against the people in the occupied zone?" asked Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah in comments carried in Lebanese newspapers.

Israel said last week it had given up trying to make peace with Syria and was aiming instead to negotiate terms for an Israeli withdrawal from south Lebanon.

Lebanon swiftly rejected any negotiations, calling the proposal "nothing new" and insisting, as did Syria, that U.N. Resolution 425 called for an unconditional Israeli pullout.

Israeli leaders have been

signalling a readiness to agree to withdraw from Lebanon as of late, but only so long as the Beirut government stops Hizbollah guerrilla attacks.

Hizbollah is fighting a guerrilla war of attrition to drive Israeli troops and their local militia allies, the South Lebanon Army (SLA), from the Jewish state's south Lebanon self-declared "security zone."

Israel has occupied parts of south Lebanon since 1978, saying it is necessary to protect its northern border area.

Thirty-nine Israeli soldiers and 54 guerrillas, mostly Hizbollah, were killed in Lebanon in 1997.

Sheikh Nasrallah said Israel had acknowledged U.N. Resolution 425 after so many years "as a result of blows by the Islamic resistance." He said an unconditional Israeli withdrawal was a matter of time.

Hizbollah guerrillas frequently clash with Israeli troops and the SLA in south

Lebanon, site of air raids, rocket attacks and roadside bombs.

Hizbollah Deputy Secretary General Sheikh Naeem Kassem said the group would not reveal its future plans in the event of an Israeli withdrawal from south Lebanon.

"Israel has no right to know what might happen after its withdrawal because this would amount to giving it one of the guarantees it is asking for," he told Al Nabar newspaper.

## Israel to recognise Pollard as spy — reports

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The Israeli government will soon recognise officially for the first time that a former U.S. navy analyst serving a life sentence for espionage was an Israeli spy, Israeli media reported Monday.

Israel public radio and the Yedioth Aharnot newspaper said Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu would announce later this week or next week that Jonathan Pollard was spying for Israel when he was arrested in 1985.

Mr. Netanyahu's aim is to facilitate efforts to convince the U.S. government to release Mr. Pollard, a Jewish American who has taken

Israeli nationality since his imprisonment, and let him emigrate to Israel.

Mr. Pollard has been seeking through Israel's supreme court for years to force the government to admit officially that he worked for the Mossad foreign intelligence service.

The Yedioth Aharnot said it had been informed that Mr. Netanyahu was finally willing to take this step by Yehi Edelstein, the minister for immigrant affairs who recently met with Mr. Pollard in his North Carolina jail cell.

There was no immediate confirmation of the change in policy from Mr. Edelstein's office or other officials.

Successive Israeli governments have discreetly sought to obtain Mr. Pollard's release, but have declined repeated demands by the spy for official recognition of his links to Mossad.

After coming to power in June 1996, Mr. Netanyahu appointed a ministerial committee headed by cabinet secretary Danny Navet to seek Pollard's release. The press reports said Mr. Navet would soon travel to the United States to meet with Mr. Pollard.

Mr. Netanyahu also reportedly instructed an official at Israel's embassy in Washington, Yitzhak Oren, to meet

weekly with Pollard to brief him on efforts to obtain his release.

Pollard was a U.S. Navy analyst when he was recruited by Mossad in the early 1980s to pass on classified intelligence information, notably concerning military developments in the Arab World.

He was arrested in 1985 and sentenced to life in prison for treason in 1987. He obtained Israeli nationality in 1996.

U.S. President Bill Clinton last year rejected a request to grant a pardon to Pollard, bowing to U.S. intelligence officials who said the spy's release would undermine U.S. security.

## Top Turkish general to visit Russia

ANKARA (AFP) — Turkey's top commander, General Ismail Hakkı Karadayi, will visit Russia next month, marking the first such high-ranking trip for a Turkish military officer since the collapse of the Soviet Union, Russian diplomatic sources said Monday.

The two sides during the visit are expected to discuss possible sales of Russian military equipment to Turkey and explore joint production of arms systems, the sources said.

The exact date of the trip, during which Gen. Karadayi would hold talks with top Russian military and defence officials, is expected to be decided on in the next couple of weeks, they told AFP.



PROTEST TO FREE PALESTINIAN PRISONERS: Palestinian women chant during a protest Monday in front of the headquarters of the International Red Cross Committee in Gaza Strip. The women called on Israel to free their sons who are held as political prisoners in Israeli jails. More than 4,000 Palestinian prisoners are still held in Israeli jails (Reuters photo)

## Top U.S. general says forces in Gulf must stay on alert against Iraq

RIYADH (AFP) — General Henry Shelton, the top officer in the U.S. military, met Saudi Defence Minister Prince Sultan Ben Abdul Aziz here Monday and said his forces in the Gulf must stay on alert against Iraq.

"Until U.N. weapons inspectors are allowed to complete their work, we have no choice but to assume that Iraq has not abandoned its pursuit of weapons of mass destruction and that it continues to pose a threat to its neighbours," he said.

"The United States and our coalition partners will remain vigilant," the chair-

man of the joint chiefs of staff said in a statement at the end of a two-day visit during which he also met Crown Prince Abdullah Ben Abdul Aziz.

"We will continue to consult closely and to rely on the advice and friendship of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in our dealings in this region," said the general.

Gen. Shelton said his talks in Saudi Arabia, where he met top military officials, focused on "issues of mutual concern, particularly those related to the security and stability of the Gulf region."

A U.S. embassy spokes-

woman, meanwhile, said that Gen. Shelton on his first visit here as chairman of the joint chiefs of staff also visited American military units in the Riyadh region.

Gen. Shelton was to travel to Kuwait later the same day on the second leg of a tour that will also take him to Egypt.

The Pentagon has said the general's tour was long scheduled, but it comes as a huge U.S. force has been kept in the Gulf to await a test of Iraq's implementation of a U.N. accord on arms inspections.

Before the Feb. 23 accord,

which headed off the threat of U.S. military action, Saudi Arabia ruled out the use of its territory, where around 100 U.S. planes are based, to launch attacks on Iraq.

Under an operation named "Southern Watch," U.S. aircraft in Saudi Arabia help patrol a "no-fly" zone over southern Iraq.

In Kuwait, Gen. Shelton was to hold talks Tuesday with his Kuwaiti counterpart, Lieutenant General Ali Mohammed Hassan Al-Mu'amin. He also plans to visit U.S. troops at Camp Doha and attend joint U.S.-Kuwaiti manoeuvres.

## Jerusalem Awqaf council warn of Israeli attempts to take over property

By Elias M. Zananiri  
Special to the Jordan Times

**OCCUPIED JERUSALEM** — The Islamic Awqaf (Endowment) Council in Jerusalem has warned that the latest Israeli measures in the city are meant to take over more Islamic property, not only in Jerusalem but all over Palestine.

The Israeli district court is due to meet tomorrow as intensive attempts took place Monday to mediate between the Islamic Awqaf and the Khatib family of east Jerusalem to cancel the appeal the family presented to the court against the Awqaf.

The council, which met on Sunday, said it would consider itself in constant emergency session to view the developments in the court case raised by Isaac Aref Farhan Khatib, who wanted to claim his property back.

The council warned that if the Israeli civil courts are given the right to discuss and issue verdicts in cases relevant to Islamic property, which has been within the Islamic religious court system, then "the whole Islamic and Christian endowment properties in Palestine face the danger of being confiscated and taken over by Israel."

Since 1967, the Israeli courts have refrained from interfering in cases involving the Islamic Awqaf in Palestine, but a recent ruling by the Israeli District Court accepting an appeal by Mr. Khatib to retrieve property he donated to the Islamic Awqaf in 1981 threatens to set a new legal precedent that would allow Israel in the future to take over Islamic property in Palestine.

Three months ago, Mr. Khatib decided to claim his property back. He was told by the Awqaf Council that such a step is illegal according to Islamic religious rulings. Talks continued between Mr. Khatib and representatives of the Awqaf in order to find a way out of the crisis, but Mr. Khatib insisted on going to the Israeli courts.

Adnan Hussein, the director of the Islamic Awqaf in Jerusalem, said that going to the Israeli courts in this kind of case is "just like walking into a dark tunnel. Nobody can tell what is waiting for him at the other end."

He said the main concern is the fact that Israeli courts are now giving themselves the right to issue rulings on cases that were previously dealt with exclusively by the Islamic religious courts.

When Mr. Khatib donated his land, said Mr. Hussein, he obtained a religious ruling ratifying his move from the Islamic religious court (Sharia) in east Jerusalem and later from the Jaffa religious court, which backed the Jerusalem court's decision.

"What we are facing today is not only a case of a certain property in east Jerusalem, but a lead to a large-scale campaign by Israel to take over Islamic properties all over Palestine, not only in Jerusalem," Mr. Hussein said.

Palestinians estimate that at least 90 per cent of the property within the walls of the Old City of Jerusalem is registered religious endowment, both Islamic and Christian. Should the Israeli court go ahead with its decision, most of this property would become vulnerable to arbitrary decisions issued by the Israeli authorities to be taken over.

"This decision is very grave to Muslims all over the world. It shows there is a deliberate campaign aimed at taking over Islamic property in Palestine and it coincides with the Israeli attempts to appropriate Islamic properties in Jerusalem," said Mr. Hussein.

Iranian warship makes visit to Saudi Arabia

TEHRAN (R) — An Iranian warship has docked in a Saudi Arabian port on a friendly visit for the first time since Iran's 1979 Islamist revolution, a newspaper said on Monday.

The Khark logistics warship, carrying members of Iran's Revolutionary Guards and students and professors from the Iranian navy, was met by Saudi military officials when it arrived in the Red Sea port of Jeddah on Saturday, the Tehran Times said.

The English-language daily said it was the first visit by an Iranian military ship to Saudi Arabia since the revolution. It did not say how long the visit would last.

Former Iranian President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani on Friday completed a 15-day visit to Saudi Arabia, where he discussed sagging oil prices and regional cooperation with senior members of Saudi Arabia's ruling royal family.

Saudi officials have talked of a new chapter in relations.

The visit of the Iranian warship coincided with a visit to Saudi Arabia by U.S. Army General Henry Shelton, who met Saudi Arabian Crown Prince Abdullah.

## U.S. planned for government-in-exile during attack — Iraq

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Iraq said Monday that a 30-member government-in-exile, financed by the CIA, was to have been announced during a U.S. attack in the crisis over U.N. arms inspections.

The Feb. 25 accord with the United Nations averted the threatened U.S. air war on Iraq.

"The government is made up of 30 members, who receive their salaries from the U.S. intelligence service," the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) said in the official newspaper Naba Al Shaba.

The paper, run by President Saddam Hussein's son Uday, citing diplomatic sources and

the international media, published a list of 15 names and said the coalition of the government had been postponed because of the Iraq-U.N. accord.

Among the members, it said, were Ahmad Shalabi who held the London-based Iraqi National Congress (INC) opposition coalition and Wafiq Samarra, a former military intelligence chief who fled Iraq in 1994.

Mr. Shalabi said last week that the United States was plotting to overthrow Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and install a democratic government. Two senior U.S. officials had briefed him on the plan, the INC leader said.

## Iranian warship makes visit to Saudi Arabia

TEHRAN (R) — An Iranian warship has docked in a Saudi Arabian port on a friendly visit for the first time since Iran's 1979 Islamist revolution, a newspaper said on Monday.

The Khark logistics warship, carrying members of Iran's Revolutionary Guards and students and professors from the Iranian navy, was met by Saudi military officials when it arrived in the Red Sea port of Jeddah on Saturday, the Tehran Times said.

The English-language daily said it was the first visit by an Iranian military ship to Saudi Arabia since the revolution. It did not say how long the visit would last.

Former Iranian President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani on Friday completed a 15-day visit to Saudi Arabia, where he discussed sagging oil prices and regional cooperation with senior members of Saudi Arabia's ruling royal family.

Saudi officials have talked of a new chapter in relations.

The visit of the Iranian warship coincided with a visit to Saudi Arabia by U.S. Army General Henry Shelton, who met Saudi Arabian Crown Prince Abdullah.

Iranian warship makes visit to Saudi Arabia

TEHRAN (R) — An Iranian warship has docked in a Saudi Arabian port on a friendly visit for the first time since Iran's 1979 Islamist revolution, a newspaper said on Monday.

The Khark logistics warship, carrying members of Iran's Revolutionary Guards and students and professors from the Iranian navy, was met by Saudi military officials when it arrived in the Red Sea port of Jeddah on Saturday, the Tehran Times said.

The English-language daily said it was the first visit by an Iranian military ship to Saudi Arabia since the revolution. It did not say how long the visit would last.

Former Iranian President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani on Friday completed a 15-day visit to Saudi Arabia, where he discussed sagging oil prices and regional cooperation with senior members of Saudi Arabia's ruling royal family.

Saudi officials have talked of a new chapter in relations.

The visit of the Iranian warship coincided with a visit to Saudi Arabia by U.S. Army General Henry Shelton, who met Saudi Arabian Crown Prince Abdullah.

### JORDAN TELEVISION

PROGRAMME TWO  
16:10 ...Cartoon ... C.R.G.  
16:30 ...French programmes  
18:00 ...Small Talk  
18:30 ...Drama ... Border Town  
19:00 ...Le Journal  
19:15 Educational Magazine ... Terra  
19:30 ...News ... Headlines  
19:35 Comedy ... Prude and Joy  
20:00 ...What Would You Do?  
20:30 ...Encounter  
21:10 ...Drama ... Aqaba Bay  
22:30 ...News in English  
22:30 Feature Film ... "Middle Ages"  
23:59 ...Mama Cafe  
00:30 ...End of T.V.

PRAYER TIMES  
04:32 ...Fajr  
05:49 ...Sunrise/Duha  
11:46 ...Dhuhr  
15:07 ...Asr  
17:43 ...Maghreb  
19:00 ...Isha

CHURCHES  
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweifeh, Tel. 502740  
Assemblies of God Church Tel. 4628952

### JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

WEATHER  
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology  
Temperatures are expected to rise significantly. It will be warm and sunny, clouds appearing at different altitudes, winds south-westerly moderate. In Aqaba, seas will be northerly moderate, and seas calm.

Amman ... 05/19  
Aqaba ... 10/26  
Deserts ... 14/20  
Jordan Valley ... 11/25

Yesterday's high temperatures:  
Amman 15, Aqaba 24 H-mid-ity readings: Amman 57 per cent, Aqaba 25 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS  
NIGHT DUTY  
AMMAN:  
Dr. Mukhlis Halaseh ... 5519220  
Dr. Rudi Sukkar ... 856457  
Dr. Fadi Al Khatib ... 565457  
Dr. Ghazi Abu Shikah ... 753405  
Ferdows pharmacy ... 783356

### WEATHER

AMMAN:  
Dr. Mukhlis Halaseh ... 5519220  
Dr. Rudi Sukkar ... 856457  
Dr. Fadi Al Khatib ... 565457  
Dr. Ghazi Abu Shikah ... 753405  
Ferdows pharmacy ... 783356

### WEATHER

AMMAN:  
Dr. Mukhlis Halaseh ... 5519220  
Dr. Rudi Sukkar ... 856457  
Dr. Fadi Al Khatib ... 565457  
Dr. Ghazi Abu Shikah ... 753405  
Ferdows pharmacy ... 783356

### WEATHER

AMMAN:  
Dr. Mukhlis Halaseh ... 5519220  
Dr. Rudi Sukkar ... 856457  
Dr. Fadi Al Khatib ... 565457  
Dr. Ghazi Abu Shikah ... 753405  
Ferdows pharmacy ... 783356

### WEATHER

AMMAN:  
Dr. Mukhlis Halaseh ... 5519220  
Dr. Rudi Sukkar ... 856457  
Dr. Fadi Al Khatib ... 565457  
Dr. Ghazi Abu Shikah ... 753405  
Ferdows pharmacy ... 783356

### WEATHER

AMMAN:  
Dr. Mukhlis Halaseh ... 5519220  
Dr. Rudi Sukkar ... 856457  
Dr. Fadi Al Khatib ... 565457  
Dr. Ghazi Abu Shikah ... 753405  
Ferdows pharmacy ... 783356

### WEATHER

AMMAN:  
Dr. Mukhlis Halaseh ... 5519220  
Dr. Rudi Sukkar ... 856457  
Dr. Fadi Al Khatib ... 565457  
Dr. Ghazi Abu Shikah ... 753405  
Ferdows pharmacy ... 783356

### JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

11:00 ...Brussels (add) (RJ)  
11:15 ...Vienna, Brussels (RJ)  
12:00 ...Geneva, Madrid (RJ)  
12:10 ...Paris (RJ)  
12:15 ...London (RJ)  
12:30 ...Frankfurt (RJ)  
12:30 ...Cairo (RJ)  
20:20 ...Larnaca (RJ)  
21:00 ...Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)  
22:30 ...Jeddah (RJ)  
23:00 ...Damascus (RJ)

Other Flights  
14:35 ...Istanbul (TK)  
14:40 ...Munich (YP)  
16:30 ...Rome (AZ)  
18:30 ...Dubai, Damascus (EK)  
20:00 ...Tel Aviv (LY)  
20:10 ...Beirut (ME)  
20:40 ...Cairo (MS)  
22:20 ...London (BA)  
23:35 ...Amsterdam (KL)  
23:35 ...Larnaca (CY)

Royal Wings (RW) Flights  
07:45 ...Aqaba (RW)  
09:05 ...Amman (QAIA) (RW)  
09:50 ...Amman (Marka Airport) (RW)  
17:20 ...Tel Aviv (RW)  
18:30 ...Amman (QAIA) (RW)  
21:30 ...Aqaba (RW)  
22:50 ...Amman (Marka Airport) (RW)

FOR THE TRAVELLER  
QUEEN ALIA AIRPORT  
ARRIVALS  
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights  
07:15 ...Sana'a (RJ)  
07:25 ...Damascus (RJ)  
09:25 ...Abu Dhabi (RJ)  
10:05 ...Muscat, Dubai (RJ)  
10:05 ...Beirut (RJ)  
10:15 ...Doha, Bahrain (RJ)

DEPARTURES  
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights  
06:20 ...Beirut (RJ)  
08:25 ...Amsterdam, New York (RJ)

### JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

11:00 ...Brussels (add) (RJ)  
11:15 ...Vienna, Brussels (RJ)  
12:00 ...Geneva, Madrid (RJ)  
12:10 ...Paris (RJ)  
12:15 ...London (RJ)  
12:30 ...Frankfurt (RJ)  
12:30 ...Cairo (RJ)  
20:20 ...Larnaca (RJ)  
21:00 ...Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)  
22:30 ...Jeddah (RJ)  
23:00 ...Damascus (RJ)

Other Flights  
14:35 ...Istanbul (TK)  
14:40 ...Munich (YP)  
16:30 ...Rome (AZ)  
18:30 ...Dubai, Damascus (EK)  
20:00 ...Tel Aviv (LY)  
20:10 ...Beirut (ME)  
20:40 ...Cairo (MS)  
22:20 ...London (BA)  
23:35 ...Amsterdam (KL)  
23:35 ...Larnaca (CY)

Royal Wings (RW) Flights  
07:45 ...Aqaba (RW)  
09:05 ...Amman (QAIA) (RW)  
09:50 ...Amman (Marka Airport) (RW)  
17:20 ...Tel Aviv (RW)  
18:30 ...Amman (QAIA) (RW)  
21:30 ...Aqaba (RW)  
22:50 ...Amman (Marka Airport) (RW)

FOR THE TRAVELLER  
QUEEN ALIA AIRPORT  
ARRIVALS  
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights  
07:15 ...Sana'a (RJ)  
07:25 ...Damascus (RJ)  
09:25 ...Abu Dhabi (RJ)  
10:05 ...Muscat, Dubai (RJ)  
10:05 ...Beirut (RJ)  
10:15 ...Doha, Bahrain (RJ)

DEPARTURES  
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights  
06:20 ...Beirut (RJ)  
08:25 ...Amsterdam, New York (RJ)

### JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

11:00 ...Brussels (add) (RJ)  
11:15 ...Vienna, Brussels (RJ)  
12:00 ...Geneva, Madrid (RJ)  
12:10 ...Paris (RJ)  
12:15 ...London (RJ)  
12:30 ...Frankfurt (RJ)  
12:30 ...Cairo (RJ)  
20:20 ...Larnaca (RJ)  
21:00 ...Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)  
22:30 ...Jeddah (RJ)  
23:00 ...Damascus (RJ)

Other Flights  
14:35 ...Istanbul (TK)  
14:40 ...Munich (YP)  
16:30 ...Rome (AZ)  
18:30 ...Dubai, Damascus (EK)  
20:00 ...Tel Aviv (LY)  
20:10 ...Beirut (ME)  
20:40 ...Cairo (MS)  
22:20 ...London (BA)  
23:35 ...Amsterdam (KL)  
23:35 ...Larnaca (CY)

Royal Wings (RW) Flights  
07:45 ...Aqaba (RW)  
09:05 ...Amman (QAIA) (RW)  
09:50 ...Amman (Marka Airport) (RW)  
17:20 ...Tel Aviv (RW)  
18:30 ...Amman (QAIA) (RW)  
21:30 ...Aqaba (RW)  
22:50 ...Amman (Marka Airport) (RW)

FOR THE TRAVELLER  
QUEEN ALIA AIRPORT  
ARRIVALS  
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights  
07:15 ...Sana'a (RJ)  
07:25 ...Damascus (RJ)  
09:25 ...Abu Dhabi (RJ)  
10:05 ...Muscat, Dubai (RJ)  
10:05 ...Beirut (RJ)  
10:15 ...Doha, Bahrain (RJ)

DEPARTURES  
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights  
06:20 ...Beirut (RJ)  
08:25 ...Amsterdam, New York (RJ)

### JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

11:00 ...Brussels (add) (RJ)  
11:15 ...Vienna, Brussels (RJ)  
12:00 ...Geneva, Madrid (RJ)  
12:10 ...Paris (RJ)  
12:15 ...London (RJ)  
12:30 ...Frankfurt (RJ)  
12:30 ...Cairo (RJ)  
20:20 ...Larnaca (RJ)  
21:00 ...Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)  
22:30 ...Jeddah (RJ)  
23:00 ...Damascus (RJ)

Other Flights  
14:35 ...Istanbul (TK)  
14:40 ...Munich (YP)  
16:30 ...Rome (AZ)  
18:30 ...Dubai, Damascus (EK)  
20:00 ...Tel Aviv (LY)  
20:10 ...Beirut (ME)  
20:40 ...Cairo (MS)  
22:20 ...London (BA)  
23:35 ...Amsterdam (KL)  
23:35 ...Larnaca (CY)

Royal Wings (RW) Flights  
07:45 ...Aqaba (RW)  
09:05 ...Amman (QAIA) (RW)  
09:50 ...Amman (Marka Airport) (RW)  
17:20 ...Tel Aviv (RW)  
18:30 ...Amman (QAIA) (RW)  
21:30 ...Aqaba (RW)  
22:50 ...Amman (Marka Airport) (RW)

FOR THE TRAVELLER  
QUEEN ALIA AIRPORT  
ARRIVALS  
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights  
07:15 ...Sana'a (RJ)  
07:25 ...Damascus (RJ)  
09:25 ...Abu Dhabi (RJ)  
10:05 ...Muscat, Dubai (RJ)  
10:05 ...Beirut (RJ)  
10:15 ...Doha, Bahrain (RJ)

DEPARTURES  
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights  
06:20 ...Beirut (RJ)  
08:25 ...Amsterdam, New York (RJ)

### JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

11:00 ...Brussels (add) (RJ)  
11:15 ...Vienna, Brussels (RJ)  
12:00 ...Geneva, Madrid (RJ)  
12:10 ...Paris (RJ)  
12:15 ...London (RJ)  
12:30 ...Frankfurt (RJ)  
12:30 ...Cairo (RJ)  
20:20 ...Larnaca (RJ)  
21:00 ...Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)  
22:30 ...Jeddah (RJ)  
23:00 ...Damascus (RJ)

Other Flights  
14:35 ...Istanbul (TK)  
14:40 ...Munich (YP)  
16:30 ...Rome (AZ)  
18:30 ...Dubai, Damascus (EK)  
20:00 ...Tel Aviv (LY)  
20:10 ...Beirut (ME)  
20:40 ...Cairo (MS)  
22:20 ...London (BA)  
23:35 ...Amsterdam (KL)  
23:35 ...Larnaca (CY)

Royal Wings (RW) Flights  
07:45 ...Aqaba (RW)  
09:05 ...Amman (QAIA) (RW)  
09:50 ...Amman (Marka Airport) (RW)  
17:20 ...Tel Aviv (RW)  
18:30 ...Amman (QAIA) (RW)  
21:30 ...Aqaba (RW)  
22:50 ...Amman (Marka Airport) (RW)

FOR THE TRAVELLER  
QUEEN ALIA AIRPORT  
ARRIVALS  
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights  
07:15 ...Sana'a (RJ)  
07:25 ...Damascus (RJ)  
09:25 ...Abu Dhabi (RJ)  
10:05 ...Muscat, Dubai (RJ)  
10:05 ...Beirut (RJ)  
10:15 ...Doha, Bahrain (RJ)

DEPARTURES  
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights  
06:20 ...Beirut (RJ)  
08:25 ...Amsterdam, New York (RJ)

### JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

11:00 ...Brussels (add) (RJ)  
11:15 ...Vienna, Brussels (RJ)  
12:00 ...Geneva, Madrid (RJ)  
12:10 ...Paris (RJ)  
12:15 ...London (RJ)  
12:30 ...Frankfurt (RJ)  
12:30 ...Cairo (RJ)  
20:20 ...Larnaca (RJ)  
21:00 ...Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)  
22:30 ...Jeddah (RJ)  
23:00 ...Damascus (RJ)

Other Flights  
14:35 ...Istanbul (TK)  
14:40 ...Munich (YP)  
16:30 ...Rome (AZ)  
18:30 ...Dubai, Damascus (EK)  
20:00 ...Tel Aviv (LY)  
20:10 ...Beirut (ME)  
20:40 ...Cairo (MS)  
22:20 ...London (BA)  
23:35 ...Amsterdam (KL)  
23:35 ...Larnaca (CY)

Royal Wings (RW) Flights  
07:45 ...Aqaba (RW)  
09:05 ...Amman (QAIA) (RW)  
09:50 ...Amman (Marka Airport) (RW)  
17:20 ...Tel Aviv (RW)  
18:30 ...Amman (QAIA) (RW)  
21:30 ...Aqaba (RW)  
22:50 ...Amman (Marka Airport) (RW)

FOR THE TRAVELLER  
QUEEN ALIA AIRPORT  
ARRIVALS  
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights  
07:15 ...Sana'a (RJ)  
07:25 ...Damascus (RJ)  
09:25 ...Abu Dhabi (RJ)  
10:05 ...Muscat, Dubai (RJ)  
10:05 ...Beirut (RJ)  
10:15 ...Doha, Bahrain (RJ)

DEPARTURES  
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights  
06:20 ...Beirut (RJ)  
08:25 ...Amsterdam, New York (RJ)

### JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

11:00 ...Brussels (add) (RJ)  
11:15 ...Vienna, Brussels (RJ)  
12:00 ...Geneva, Madrid (RJ)  
12:10 ...Paris (RJ)  
12:15 ...London (RJ)  
12:30 ...Frankfurt (RJ)  
12:30 ...Cairo (RJ)  
20:20 ...Larnaca (RJ)  
21:00 ...Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)  
22:30 ...Jeddah (RJ)  
23:00 ...Damascus (RJ)

Other Flights  
14:35 ...Istanbul (TK)  
14:40 ...Munich (YP)  
16:30 ...Rome (AZ)  
18:30 ...Dubai, Damascus (EK)  
20:00 ...Tel Aviv (LY)  
20:10 ...Beirut (ME)  
20:40 ...Cairo (MS)  
22:20 ...London (BA)  
23:35 ...Amsterdam (KL)  
23:35 ...Larnaca (CY)

Royal Wings (RW) Flights  
07:45 ...Aqaba (RW)  
09:05 ...Amman (QAIA) (RW)  
09:50 ...Amman (Marka Airport) (RW)  
17:20 ...Tel Aviv (RW)  
18:30 ...Amman (QAIA) (RW)  
21:30 ...Aqaba (RW)  
22:50 ...Amman (Marka Airport) (RW)

FOR THE TRAVELLER  
QUEEN ALIA AIRPORT  
ARRIVALS  
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights  
07:15 ...Sana'a (RJ)  
07:25 ...Damascus (RJ)  
09:25 ...Abu Dhabi (RJ)  
10:05 ...Muscat, Dubai (RJ)  
10:05 ...Beirut (RJ)  
10:15 ...Doha, Bahrain (RJ)

DEPARTURES  
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights  
06:20 ...Beirut (RJ)  
08:25 ...Amsterdam, New York (RJ)

### JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

11:00 ...Brussels (add) (RJ)  
11:15 ...Vienna, Brussels (RJ)  
12:00 ...Geneva, Madrid (RJ)  
12:10 ...Paris (RJ)  
12:15 ...London (RJ)  
12:30 ...Frankfurt (RJ)  
12:30 ...Cairo (RJ)  
20:20 ...Larnaca (RJ)  
21:00 ...Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)  
22:30 ...Jeddah (RJ)  
23:00 ...Damascus (RJ)

Other Flights  
14:35 ...Istanbul (TK)  
14:40 ...Munich (YP)  
16:30 ...Rome (AZ)  
18:30 ...Dubai, Damascus (EK)  
20:00 ...Tel Aviv (LY)  
20:10 ...Beirut (ME)  
20:40 ...Cairo (MS)  
22:20 ...London (BA)  
23:35 ...Amsterdam (KL)  
23:35 ...Larnaca (CY)

Royal Wings (RW) Flights  
07:45 ...Aqaba (RW)  
09:05 ...Amman (QAIA) (RW)  
09:50 ...Amman (Marka Airport) (RW)  
17:20 ...Tel Aviv (RW)  
18:30 ...Amman (QAIA) (RW)  
21:30 ...Aqaba (RW)  
22:50 ...Amman (Marka Airport) (RW)

FOR THE TRAVELLER  
QUEEN ALIA AIRPORT  
ARRIVALS  
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights  
07:15 ...Sana'a (RJ)  
07:25 ...Damascus (RJ)  
09:25 ...Abu Dhabi (RJ)  
10:05 ...Muscat, Dubai (RJ)  
10:05 ...Beirut (RJ)  
10:15 ...Doha, Bahrain (RJ)

DEPARTURES  
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights  
06:20 ...Beirut (RJ)  
08:25 ...Amsterdam, New York (RJ)



"We try to adapt the meaning of the story so that it will meet the needs of the Arab child, but this is not enough," Mr. Awamleh said.

The Arab League, he said, never attempted to invest in children's cartoons because they are an extremely expensive venture.

"Children are not a priority for them...though our children are the investment for the future."



## Double blast rocks Pakistan with five dead, 47 injured

LAHORE, Pakistan (AFP) — Bomb attacks on a train and a courthouse Monday left at least five people dead, injured 47 and increased growing religious and social tensions in Pakistan.

The Chiltan Express was blown off the tracks as it travelled between the Punjab capital Lahore and Quetta in the southwestern province of Baluchistan.

At least five people were killed and 35 injured, officials said.

The second bomb went off outside a court at Sukkur in southern province of Sindh leaving a dozen people injured, three of them in critical condition.

The train bomb went off in a crowded car, which railway officials said was completely destroyed by the blast.

Ambulance sources said several of the injured were in critical condition.

The explosion came as the train passed through a railway station near the Punjab jungle resort of Changa Manga, about 100 kilometres south of Lahore, police said.

The injured were taken to a civil hospital in the nearby town of Patoki.

The second bomb was placed in a wooden cabin near the court in Sukkur in Sindh province and went off as the judge started proceedings against defendants accused of murders and involvement in tribal feuds.

The blast triggered panic and injured people standing outside the crowded court, witnesses said.

Police said it was a "terrorist act" that could have been intended to free some prisoners. None of the defendants escaped however.

No one claimed responsibility for either of the two explosions.

A string of previous bombings this year, including a train explosion and a bus blast, left about a dozen people dead in Punjab, plagued by sectarian unrest, and eight fatalities in the Sindh capital of Karachi.

Last year, 48 people were killed and 148 injured in 19 bomb blasts in Punjab, according to official figures.

Terrorist attacks in Punjab, blamed on extremist Sunni and Shiite Muslim groups, have claimed around 250 lives since early 1997.

The authorities said at least 10 people were detained last week in Punjab over a series of attacks and murders.

But several accused terrorists remain at large and the government has offered cash rewards for the arrest of militants belonging to extremist groups from the majority Sunni and minority Shiite communities.

The government last year set up special anti-terrorism courts to carry out the speedy punishment of accused in sectarian unrest and other serious crimes.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif last week announced plans to organise nationwide special police squads to hunt down terrorists.

"We have asked the provincial governments to induct the best people into the squads so that terrorists are caught," he told reporters in Karachi Friday.

The sectarian vendetta and the troubles in Karachi, where hundreds of died in recent years, are considered a serious problem scaring off foreign investors.

Mr. Sharif, condemning the murder of two Iranians last month in Karachi, said a "foreign hand" was involved in terrorism and sabotage in a bid to damage Pakistan's relations with Iran.



Sitarum Kesri, walks past a cut-out of Sonia Gandhi, after he announced his decision to quit as the president of the Congress Party in New Delhi (Reuters photo)

## Congress chief quits, appeals to Gandhi's widow after Indian polls flop

NEW DELHI (AFP) — The president of India's once-dominant Congress resigned here Monday after his party's poor showing in national elections and called on the widow of former Premier Rajiv Gandhi to replace him.

Sitarum Kesri, once dubbed "an old man in a hurry" by political opponents, quit after his party won 140 out of 545 seats in the February-March hung polls, equalling its worst-ever showing.

The party's main rivals, the Hindu nationalists, are expected to come to power at the head of a coalition.

Mr. Kesri, 82, told a press conference: "I have resigned from the post of party presidentship ... I think it is my duty to do so."

"I ask Sonia Gandhi to take over the party post now. I was not told to do this by anybody, not even Sonia."

The Congress, once dominated by the Nehru-Gandhi dynasty, is in steady decline after ruling India for 45 of 50 years since independence.

The party turned to Sonia Gandhi, the widow of former Indian Premier Rajiv Gandhi, to act as its campaign figurehead during the polls, leaving Mr. Kesri sidelined.

Mr. Kesri succeeded disgraced former Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao, who is now awaiting trial for corruption, as Congress president at the end of 1996.

A former party treasurer and seen as a backroom "fixer" rather than a leader of charisma, he failed to reunite the party's various factions.

Mr. Kesri said: "I will not take over the party post again, even if offered ... at this age if I take a decision, it will be final." He received the "old man in a hurry" tag from opponents who accused him of wanting to become prime minister at any cost after he brought down two minority coalitions within eight months last year, leading to the February-March polls.

The Italian-born Sonia Gandhi, 51, had no previous political experience before agreeing to campaign on the Congress' behalf.

She rejected Congress appeals to stand as a candidate, saying she did not want office "for now."

There was no immediate reaction from her staff Monday.

Sonia Gandhi launched her campaign from the spot where her husband was assassinated in 1991 in southern India and addressed around 140 rallies across the country, some attracting 300,000 people.

The Congress claimed she helped revive morale but most analysts believe her contribution failed to translate into votes.

The nationalists, hoping to come to power next week, branded her a "movie star" and a "foreigner" with no place in Indian politics and scoffed at the Congress' reliance on the "personality cult" surrounding the Nehru-Gandhi dynasty.

The Congress' share of the popular vote has declined in every election since 1984.

Vithal Gadgil, the Congress spokesman, said Monday: "It is very obvious that he decided to step down to pave way for Sonia Gandhi ... this decision has nothing to do with the outcome of the elections or the performance of the party."

He said he had followed with pleasure reports on the assassination last Jan. 30 of Seville Deputy Mayor Alberto Jimenez-Becerra and his wife Ascension.

"I like seeing their faces deformed by pain," he said. "Their tears make us laugh, and in the end we will be laughing out loud," wrote the detainee, who has been sentenced to 2,000 years in prison for 20 murders.

The armed wing of the ETA has designated Inaki de Juana as one of its representatives if the government agrees to negotiate with the some 500 ETA detainees.

PP politicians have become a privileged target for the ETA in its campaign for negotiations on its separatist demands, with four killed since July.

## Indonesian student demos mount

JAKARTA (AFP) — Student demonstrations gathered pace Monday as Indonesia's President Suharto prepared to return to office for another five-year term after 32 years as head of state.

Hundreds of students rallied at two campuses in the capital, while similar protests were staged in the cities of Surabaya and Bandung.

Several activists were arrested at another demonstration in downtown Jakarta.

More than 1,000 students rallied at the University of Indonesia's sprawling southern Jakarta campus under the watch of armed riot police and troops, though the event passed peacefully.

A large poster carried by the students depicted a crowned Mr. Suharto sitting on a throne perched on piles of money, with the words "absolute power" splashed across the drawing.

The government, never happy with public criticism, has taken particular exception to comparisons between Mr. Suharto and monarchs, insisting he is in power by virtue of his popularity, not presumption of some divine right.

The students, repeating the demands of previous rallies, called for economic and political reforms and urged an electoral committee due to reappoint Mr. Suharto to reject his candidacy for a seventh consecutive term.

Mr. Suharto is the sole candidate for the 1998-2003 presidency, despite growing opposition to his leadership of the world's fourth most populous nation.

Hundreds of students also rallied at the private Catholic Atmajaya University campus, near the venue of the 1,000-member electoral committee meeting.

"We want to be heard by the people's representatives," said one banner carried by the marchers, who were led by a group carrying a coffin draped with the red-and-white Indonesian flag.

"The aspirations of the people are not those of the political and economic elites," "We want a clean government," read others.

Scores of police and soldiers kept guard outside the university but did not intervene.

There have been dozens of protests at universities across the country in the last two weeks.

Authorities have allowed demonstrations within universities but broken up those which ventured outside.

At least four people were arrested when 20 labour and student activists protested on a busy Jakarta road Monday against price rises and to demand improved labour rights, a witness said.

The demonstrators, including activists from the Sejahtera independent labour union, carried banners demanding lower prices for essential items, the witness added.

Police arrested four demonstrators 20 minutes after they started the protest as a large crowd watched.

In the East Java province capital of Surabaya, hundreds of University of Surabaya students held a free-speech forum in a field in front of the campus library. A university staff member said some students called for the electoral committee to "find a fresh leader."

Hundreds of students at Surabaya's Sunan Ampel Islamic University campus staged a silent protest Sunday, with many plastering their mouths with photocopies of 50,000 rupiah bills to show their disapproval of the electoral committee.

In West Java province, a similar forum was held at Pajajaran University outside the provincial capital Bandung with a few dozens student present, said campus security officer Rohman.

Thousands of students staged a rally at Pajajaran University main campus in Bandung Saturday. Similar rallies were also held at two other Bandung campuses.

Meanwhile, reports said police detained six students in the central Java city of Yogyakarta Sunday and planned to charge them for inciting others in a protest over the economic crisis.

Police arrested 43 students as they attempted to march on a central square, the Suara Karya daily said, but they were released after questioning. Yogyakarta chief detective Lieutenant Colonel Erwin Tobing was quoted as saying.

"There are too many free associations in the report," he told AFP.

The frigates were delivered unarmed and are being equipped with Taiwanese, American and Italian weapons systems and French-made electronics.

The \$2.8 billion deal, together with the sale of 60 Mirages jets for \$3.8 billion, caused a serious rift between France and China, leading Beijing to order the closure of the French consulate in the southern city of Guangzhou.

The consulate was officially reopened in June 1997.

China has warned other nations against selling arms to Taiwan, which it regards as a renegade province since the communist forces drove nationalist troops here in 1949 at the end of a civil war.

Beijing has threatened to attack the island should it declare formal independence, a move prompting Taiwan to seek more advanced weaponry for self-defence.

## China says U.S. has no right to criticise its record

BEIJING (R) — China Monday denounced U.S. criticism of its human rights record, saying it was "based on hegemonic ambitions and mercantile considerations."

The United States had "no right to lambaste China's human rights" record, screamed the headline of a commentary in the official China daily.

In its annual human rights report, the United States said there was some improvement in China's human rights record last year, but serious abuses remained.

"The U.N. human rights commission is scheduled to meet in Geneva this month, and China is eager to avoid any censure."

The European Union agreed last month not to table a resolution criticising China at the forthcoming U.N. meeting.

EU countries and the United States have previously backed such resolutions every year since the Chinese army crushed student-led pro-democracy protests in Beijing in June 1989, but China has always mustered enough support to block the moves.

The newspaper commentary said the bungled attacks on China were "based on hegemonic ambitions and mercantile considerations, rather than genuine concern about the well-being of the people of the target country."

As was claimed, "The United States has said it could still put its weight behind a resolution criticising China despite the change in the EU's stance."

The newspaper commentary said the bungled attacks on China were "based on hegemonic ambitions and mercantile considerations, rather than genuine concern about the well-being of the people of the target country."

The newspaper commentary said the bungled attacks on China were "based on hegemonic ambitions and mercantile considerations, rather than genuine concern about the well-being of the people of the target country."

The newspaper commentary said the bungled attacks on China were "based on hegemonic ambitions and mercantile considerations, rather than genuine concern about the well-being of the people of the target country."

The newspaper commentary said the bungled attacks on China were "based on hegemonic ambitions and mercantile considerations, rather than genuine concern about the well-being of the people of the target country."

The newspaper commentary said the bungled attacks on China were "based on hegemonic ambitions and mercantile considerations, rather than genuine concern about the well-being of the people of the target country."

The newspaper commentary said the bungled attacks on China were "based on hegemonic ambitions and mercantile considerations, rather than genuine concern about the well-being of the people of the target country."

The newspaper commentary said the bungled attacks on China were "based on hegemonic ambitions and mercantile considerations, rather than genuine concern about the well-being of the people of the target country."

The newspaper commentary said the bungled attacks on China were "based on hegemonic ambitions and mercantile considerations, rather than genuine concern about the well-being of the people of the target country."

The newspaper commentary said the bungled attacks on China were "based on hegemonic ambitions and mercantile considerations, rather than genuine concern about the well-being of the people of the target country."

The newspaper commentary said the bungled attacks on China were "based on hegemonic ambitions and mercantile considerations, rather than genuine concern about the well-being of the people of the target country."

The newspaper commentary said the bungled attacks on China were "based on hegemonic ambitions and mercantile considerations, rather than genuine concern about the well-being of the people of the target country."

The newspaper commentary said the bungled attacks on China were "based on hegemonic ambitions and mercantile considerations, rather than genuine concern about the well-being of the people of the target country."

The newspaper commentary said the bungled attacks on China were "based on hegemonic ambitions and mercantile considerations, rather than genuine concern about the well-being of the people of the target country."

The newspaper commentary said the bungled attacks on China were "based on hegemonic ambitions and mercantile considerations, rather than genuine concern about the well-being of the people of the target country."

The newspaper commentary said the bungled attacks on China were "based on hegemonic ambitions and mercantile considerations, rather than genuine concern about the well-being of the people of the target country."

The newspaper commentary said the bungled attacks on China were "based on hegemonic ambitions and mercantile considerations, rather than genuine concern about the well-being of the people of the target country."

The newspaper commentary said the bungled attacks on China were "based on hegemonic ambitions and mercantile considerations, rather than genuine concern about the well-being of the people of the target country."

## Immigration and EU are main Danish election issues

COPENHAGEN (R) — The treatment of refugees and other immigrants, and the European Union have been the main issues in campaigning for Denmark's general election Wednesday.

The ruling centre-left government led since 1993 by Social Democratic Prime Minister Poul Nyrup-Rasmussen wants to keep Denmark's liberal immigration policies intact.

The opposition centre-right bloc says genuine refugees persecuted in their home countries should still be welcome, but it wants tighter restrictions on other immigrants.

The centre-right parties also want to cut Danish foreign aid.

But the centre democrats, a small centrist party whose support the bigger right-wing parties are likely to need to form a government, are staunchly opposed to tighter immigration rules and any cut in foreign aid.

In an opinion poll, 43 per cent of Danes said immigration was the most important issue. Those listing it as the top priority were about evenly divided between keeping Denmark's doors open and demanding tougher rules.

Danes are scheduled to vote in a referendum on May 28 on the European Union's Amsterdam Treaty. All mainstream parties are in favour of a "yes."

But during the parliamentary election campaign, the centre-left and the centre-right have accused each other of undermining the chances for a "yes". Some analysts say reelection of Mr. Rasmussen's coalition would improve the chance that many Eurosceptic Social Democrats will vote "yes."

Overall, opinion polls show 40 per cent of Danes in favour of approving the Amsterdam Treaty and 30 per cent against with the rest undecided.

Health care has been another hot election theme with Mr. Rasmussen's coalition promising to shorten waiting lines. The opposition liberal party wants to allow people to choose freely between public and private health care services.

Other major campaign issues have included care for the elderly and children, primary school education, law and order and the environment.

## Hong Kong's Tung mixes signals on media freedom

HONG KONG (R) — Pro-democracy groups Monday accused Hong Kong leader Tung Chee-hwa of giving mixed signals on press freedom and said they suspected a planned anti-subversion law would restrict the media.

Both Mr. Tung and his number two, Chief Secretary Anson Chan, have reaffirmed media freedom in recent days but the political groups said Mr. Tung had sent out confused signals.

Pro-democracy activists Monday demonstrated in defence of press freedom outside the office of China's state Xinhua news agency.

The debate was sparked in Beijing last week by Xu Simin, a veteran leftist, who attacked public broadcaster Radio Television Hong Kong (RTHK) as a remnant of British colonial rule and said it should be turned into a government mouthpiece.

Former journalist Emily Lau, leader of the pro-democracy front group, said Mr. Tung and China were setting the stage to enact an anti-subversion law that would limit press freedom.

"They are preparing public opinion for legislation. There will be a law against subversion and it will be quite harsh," she told Reuters.

Hong Kong is due to adopt an anti-subversion law after May's legislative election, the first since the end of British rule last year.

Chinese politburo member Li Ruihuan gave assurances over the weekend, signalling that Beijing actually disapproved of Mr. Xu's attack. Mr. Li stressed the need for tact when discussing Hong Kong.

"If handled improperly, it will undermine the implementation of the one-country two-systems policy," Mr. Li said.

The policy is the core of the autonomy granted Hong Kong when Britain handed its former colony back to China last July.

The office of Hong Kong's best known pro-democracy leader, Martin Lee, believes that Mr. Tung might enact legislation curbing RTHK's editorial freedom and that he would try to gag the media.

"He did not back off. This is not the end of this by a long shot," said Mr. Lee's adviser Minky Worden.

RTHK staff had spoken of being under pressure from members of the government over editorial freedom for a long time, she said.

Once they've succeeded muzzling the public radio, they're going to go after the commercial press, too."

Mr. Xu, a Hong Kong delegate to China's parliamentary congress, is closely allied to hardliners at China's watchdog Xinhua news agency branch in the territory.

Wednesday he said RTHK undermined Mr. Tung's government and was a bastion of residual colonialism.

Chief Secretary Chan lashed out at Mr. Xu for inviting Beijing's interference and unambiguously defended press freedom and RTHK's editorial independence.

But pro-democracy supporters accused Mr. Tung of waffling. He first defended freedom of speech and information as "something we treasure."

But a day later, Sunday, Mr. Tung issued a stern warning to critics of Beijing that Hong Kong would not become a centre of subversion or "an anti-Beijing base."

Pro-democracy groups took this as a sign that the subversion law, when enacted, would be tough and could make open criticism of Beijing a criminal act.



## Russian PM looks to TV for presidential profile

MOSCOW (AFP) — Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin stares into the camera and feigns indignation that viewers could think he is setting out his stall for a bid at the presidency.

But nobody is fooled. The Russian premier, who has survived more than five precarious years at the government helm, and who recently gained the upper hand over the young reformists in his cabinet, is increasingly seen as a pretender to the Kremlin throne, despite protestations that the 2000 elections are far from his thoughts.

"I haven't even thought about that," Mr. Chernomyrdin said, when asked Saturday in a question-and-answer session on Russian television about the next presidential polls, at which Russians may have to choose a successor to incumbent Boris Yeltsin.

"We shouldn't be thinking about elections today but about how to resolve those problems" facing the Russian government, he added, touring his business-as-usual approach to the day-to-day management of the executive.

"Today I am responsible for the government and its work, so let's talk about elections when it gets down to elections," Mr. Chernomyrdin said in the pre-recorded, obviously staged programme, for which the questions were carefully pre-selected.

The fact that the 15-minute question-and-answer session is to become a weekly event, with the premier offering soothing responses to the complaints, queries and suggestions of the Russian public cannot help but enhance the rather uninspiring image of the government chief, analysts believe.

Mr. Chernomyrdin "has always been perceived as an economic rather than political official," said Yuri Levada, head of the Vision opinion poll institute.

"He has carved out for himself the image of a man who has no designs on becoming president, but just the president's right-hand man, and his image is thus quite weak," added Alexander Osolov of the Public Opinion Foundation.

As a result, Mr. Chernomyrdin, who has proved more resilient than many thought since becoming prime minister in December 1992, currently scores only a two-to-three per cent popularity rating among Russian voters as against around 10 per cent for Moscow Mayor Yuri Luzhkov, seen as a possible election rival.

"But all that can change with a strong press campaign and a good electoral machine," Mr. Levada said.

Mr. Chernomyrdin has a strong power base centred around the Gazprom gas giant which he used to head up, which has given him formidable influence across Russia's energy sector and in national and regional media outlets, analyst Nikolai Petrov noted.

Financial backing, moreover, would not be a problem. Influential businessman Boris Berezovsky, who helped finance Mr. Yeltsin's reelection in 1996, said recently he considered Mr. Chernomyrdin to be the best candidate to succeed the current Russian president.

Mr. Yeltsin himself gave Mr. Chernomyrdin a vote of approval at the end of January by vowing that the premier would remain in his post until January 1999, giving him the upper hand once again over the young reformist element in his cabinet.

All of which leaves just one potential hitch. Mr. Chernomyrdin has said he will yield to Mr. Yeltsin if the Russian president decides to stand for a third term.



Ethnic Albanian leader Ljulljeta Pulja Bedri (centre) flashes the victory sign during protest in Kosovo's capital Pristina. Several thousand Albanians in the troubled Serbian province of Kosovo demonstrated against a police crackdown that has left dozens dead, as major powers met to discuss the crisis and how to stop it spreading (Reuters photo)

## Japanese government wrangles with governor over nuclear waste

ROKKASHO, Japan (AFP) — The Japanese government launched a last-minute effort Monday to persuade a provincial governor to let in a shipment of nuclear waste reprocessed in France, officials said.

Governor Morio Kimura was in Tokyo demanding a meeting with Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto on the eve of the arrival of the British-flagged ship carrying the nuclear waste to a port in his Aomori prefecture.

Mr. Kimura has threatened to stop the freighter from berthing at Mutsu Ogawara port if Mr. Hashimoto refuses to discuss the nation's nuclear safety policy and economic aid in the form of reduced electricity charges.

Instead, he held talks with science and technology agency chief Sadakazu Tanigaki and International Trade and Industry Minister Mitsuo Horiuchi, officials said, without disclosing details of the talks.

"My mind has not changed, and I want the government to cope with the matter sincerely," Jiji Press news agency quoted Mr. Kimura as telling reporters after the meeting with Tanigaki.

The governor's demands to meet Mr. Hashimoto earlier won a cool reception from Chief Cabinet Secretary Kanezo Muraoka.

"We would not need ministers if everything went to the premier," Mr. Muraoka told a news conference.

advising him to talk first to the chiefs of the science and technology agency and other bodies supervising nuclear policy.

The reprocessed nuclear waste is due to dock at Mutsu Ogawara port in the village of Rokkasho, Aomori prefecture, on the northern tip of Japan's Honshu main island.

In Rokkasho Monday, a few tents for anti-nuclear protesters were set up near the port. One demonstrator said he had arrived two days earlier to protest.

Banners carried such messages as "Stop reprocessing that deprives us of the future" and "Don't foist nuclear garbage on us."

In the evening, a group of 20 people including a Buddhist monk gathered in front of the port gate, standing in a circle around a model of a canister carrying nuclear waste and singing a folk song.

Around the model canister, there were flowers and paper lanterns with slogans such as: "If it is safe, why don't you take it to Tokyo."

As police guarded the gate to the port, about a dozen workers were seen practising unloading containers from a ship.

The freighter Pacific Swan, which set out from the northern French port of Cherbourg on Jan. 21, was scheduled to sail into Mutsu Ogawara early Tuesday with about 30 tonnes of high-level nuclear waste.

The nuclear waste is a product of reprocessing of spent nuclear fuel that four of Japan's electric power companies send to France because Japan does not yet have facilities to reprocess spent fuel.

The 50,000-tonne ship, owned by the British company PNTL, is carrying three containers packed with canisters of vitrified waste.

The containers were loaded in France amid protests from environmental activists, after being brought by train from the Compagnie Generale des Matieres Nucléaires (COGEMA) reprocessing plant at La Hague near Cherbourg.

The Pacific Swan is equipped with a double hull and two engine systems and is being monitored by satellite during its voyage, according to COGEMA, which says the operation poses no risk to the environment.

The shipment is the third of its kind to Japan under a processing agreement signed between COGEMA and 10 Japanese electricity generating companies.

The first operation involved 28 canisters between Feb. 23 and April 25, 1995, and the second involved 40 canisters between Jan. 13 and March 18 last year amid protests from hundreds of demonstrators.

Entry into the Japanese port was delayed by several hours for the first operation due to objections from the governor.

## 13-year-old Japanese boy stabs fellow pupil to death

TOKYO (AFP) — A 13-year-old Japanese schoolboy stabbed a fellow pupil to death Monday in a quarrel that erupted during a break between lessons, police alleged.

The victim, Makoto Kato, also 13, was stabbed and wounded in the left side of his chest during the attack in a junior high school classroom, a police official said.

The boy staggered to a balcony outside the classroom, where other children witnessed the knife, and collapsed before being rushed to hospital where he died about two hours later, the police official said.

"He collapsed at the balcony in front of his classroom," a police official said.

The attack in Saitama prefecture, 50 kilometres north of Tokyo, was the latest in a series of school stabbings that have shocked Japan and led to calls for restrictions on knife sales to minors.

Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto told reporters he knew few details as yet but added: "I am very saddened by the event. I offer my deepest condolences to the victim's family."

Chief Cabinet Secretary

Kanezo Muraoka said he hoped the education ministry, schools, homes and local communities would search for ways to tackle the problem.

"I think the younger generation lacks the basic ethical sense of the importance of life and of the difference between good and bad," he was quoted as saying by Kyodo News agency.

The suspect, whom police described as being in "a state of agitation," allegedly used a knife with a folding blade measuring eight centimetres, the police official said.

"We are questioning the boy," he said.

Jiji Press news agency quoted the boy as saying: "I don't remember why I stabbed him. I did it in a state of delirium." The report could not be confirmed by police.

Takao Suzuki, a vice principal at Higashi Junior High School, told AFP: "We are investigating details of the tragic incident including what exactly happened between the two students."

Neither the suspect nor the victim were considered "problem children," he said. "I feel terrible for the tragedy and for causing dis-

tress to parents and our community. We have been urging our students not to bring knives to the school." The school closed in the afternoon, cancelling a farewell party that had been arranged for graduating students.

Police said they were alerted to the attack by ambulance services which had been called by the junior high school.

Among other knife attacks, a Japanese court on Feb. 24 sent a 13-year-old boy to reform school for stabbing his teacher to death when she scolded him for being late.

The pupil stabbed 26-year-old English teacher Kayoko Koshibizuka with a knife seven times in a hallway and she died one hour after being taken to hospital on Jan. 28.

Juvenile crime has led to calls from politicians including the prime minister for a rethink about the roles of society, authorities, families and children.

In May 1997, the nation was rocked when a 14-year-old boy murdered and beheaded his 11-year-old playmate and killed another 10-year-old girl with a hammer in Kobe, western Japan.

## Kosovo neighbours struggle for united Balkan front

VIENNA (AFP) — Kosovo's neighbours, in the front line if unrest there spreads, are struggling to launch a home-grown diplomatic initiative to prevent a new flare-up of violence in the Balkans, analysts said Monday.

Three years after the end of the Bosnian war, the countries of southeastern Europe are having problems mounting a united front over the crisis in the troubled Yugoslav province.

While the international community mulls what it can do, four countries — Greece, Turkey, Romania and Bulgaria — have held a series of bilateral meetings.

But a three-week old Bulgarian attempt to organise a joint stand has so far come to nothing.

"The Bulgarian idea is that foreign ministers from southeastern Europe, who remained silent and couldn't agree on the Albanian crisis last year, could at least say something and say it together," said a diplomatic source in Vienna.

"These countries would like to show a certain regional solidarity in southeastern Europe, but they are having problems. And time is of the essence," said the source.

The countries fear that an extension of the conflict could lead to a massive exodus from Kosovo, whose population is 90 per cent ethnic Albanian.

Regional bilateral meet-

ings have multiplied since last week.

Friday Greek Foreign Minister Theodore Pangalos met Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic, while Turkish Premier Mesut Yilmaz flew to Sofia Saturday followed by Romanian Foreign Minister Andrei Plesu Monday.

The Bulgarian initiative was launched three weeks ago. But Sofia's delegates at a meeting of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) last Thursday admitted that a joint statement was still not completed.

In particular Greece has declined to join the

Bulgarian initiative, arguing that "any initiative on Kosovo must include all the countries in the region with a role to play, and of course the European Union."

Romania has declined to comment. "We will study the situation in Kosovo and what needs to be done for regional stability," said Mr. Plesu on his arrival in Sofia Monday.

Turkish Prime Minister Yilmaz meanwhile said that Ankara, which has historic links with Kosovo dating from the Ottoman empire, "will be happy if all the Balkan countries support this initiative."

Albania, which has not been specifically asked to join the Bulgarian initiative, says it "supports any initiative which would end the violence in Kosovo," said Tirana foreign ministry spokesman Sokol Gjoka.

But he added such an initiative must "be accompanied by efforts and initiatives by international bodies aimed at putting pressure on Belgrade," he said.

All sides fear the conflict spreading. "One thing the international community must do is reassure Kosovo's immediate neighbours," said the Vienna diplomat.

"The whole of the Balkans is threatened, because numerous countries would feel they were entitled to join in" if the conflict spread, said Macedonia's Defence Minister Lazar Kitanovski.

## Yugoslav officials take diplomats to Kosovo

BELGRADE (AFP) — Yugoslav officials took a group of around 40 foreign diplomats Sunday to two villages in the Drenica region of Kosovo at the centre of a massive police operation this week, the state-run news agency Tanjug reported.

The diplomats from 40 different countries visited the villages of Prekaz and Likosane, the agency said.

Yugoslav officials said the villages were used by ethnic Albanian separatists, who they described as "terrorists". The operation to force the separatists out of the area has left dozens dead this week and aroused growing international concern.

The agency said the trip was organised by the Yugoslav foreign ministry and was intended to "allow Yugoslav and foreign public opinion to be informed of the real situation" in the region.

Authorities were expected to show the diplomats where a man they named as Adem Jashari, an ethnic Albanian separatist leader, was hiding before, they say, he was killed last week in the Serbian offensive.

Albanian sources have cast doubts on the reports of Jashari's death and disputed claims he was a leader of the separatist Kosovo Liberation Army (UCK), a movement Belgrade describes as a "terrorist" organisation.

Since the Serbian security forces launched their sweep against separatists in the mostly Albanian-speaking province last weekend more than 50 people have died.

Belgrade admits that more than 50 have died while Albanian sources say more than 75 people have been killed.

## Thai hospital offers huge discounts on basic treatment

BANGKOK (AFP) — One of Thailand's largest hospitals is offering package deals with discounts of up to 40 per cent on common medical procedures in a bid to soften the blow of the economic crisis, officials said Monday.

Bumrungrad Hospital chief executive Curtis Schroeder said the hospital had slashed prices on a range of treatments and drugs in response to the economic slump.

Fifty-five packaged deals were being offered for procedures ranging from the delivery of babies to heart surgery and radiation cancer treatment, he said.

"I believe that Thailand now represents one of the best values in medical care anywhere in the world," he said.

"Since 1995 Bumrungrad has not raised its prices on most key items such as room and nursing charges, making us very price competitive in the market."

He said the discounts did not compromise the level or quality of care.

The hospital had also begun offering locally produced generic drugs as alternatives to the more expensive and until recently more popular western brands.

"In the past our patients have generally demanded the imported brand name drugs but we have seen an increased interest in generic drugs which are often less costly," Mr. Schroeder said.

Other private hospitals in Thailand have been forced to cut costs to protect their market share against the cheaper public hospitals.

## British madcow inquiry kicks off with plea for more time

LONDON (AFP) — An inquiry into the causes and handling of the so-called "madcow" crisis opened here Monday amid public testimony from witnesses and a call from the head of the probe for more time to consider the issue.

Appeal Court Judge Lord Justice Phillips said he had asked British Prime Minister Tony Blair for permission to extend the probe for six months beyond its December deadline.

"Having analysed the work to be done, I have concluded that it cannot be completed within a timescale that will result in a report at the end of the year."

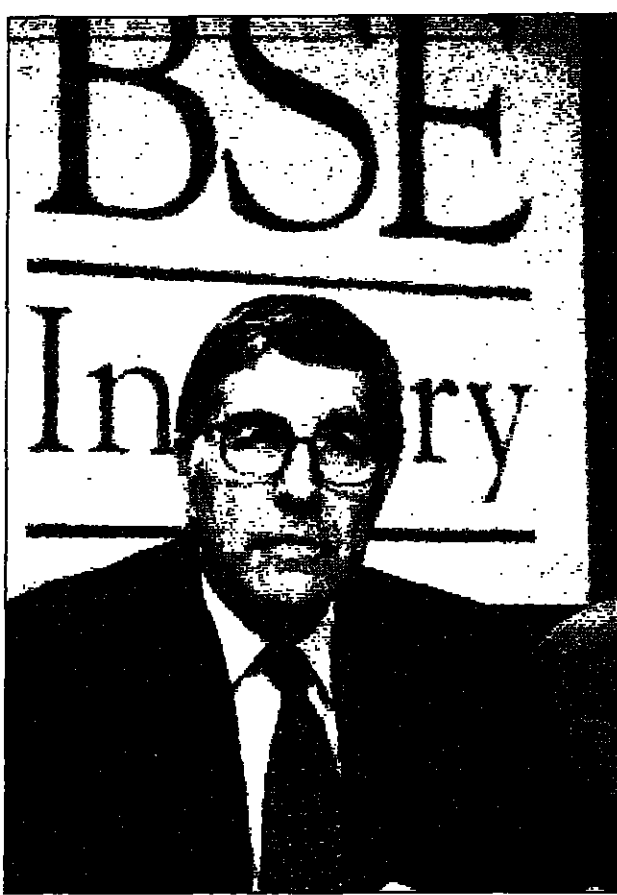
"I am not prepared to contemplate a report that is superficial because it has been too rushed, and I don't believe that those who are anxiously looking forward to receiving this report would wish us to sacrifice thoroughness for speed."

"Accordingly I have asked the prime minister to give us an extra six months in order to achieve the task that he has set us and I hope that this is something that he will feel able to do," the judge said.

He was speaking on the first day of public hearings on madcow disease, or Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE), which has killed at least 170,000 animals in Britain. The disease is thought to have been spread by cattle being fed a diet of contaminated sheep's brains.

The human equivalent of BSE, a new strain of the brain wasting condition Creutzfeldt-Jacob disease, has claimed 23 victims here. Scientists have made the link between this new variant CJD and consumption of infected flesh.

In March 1996, the British government admitted that this



Sir Nicholas Phillips, chairman of Britain's BSE inquiry at the official start of proceedings (Reuters photo)

link — hitherto denied by ministers — was probable. The European Union immediately imposed a worldwide export ban on British beef.

The inquiry, which is expected to cost more than two million pounds (\$3.26 million), aims to clarify the causes of madcow disease and investigate the way the crisis was handled by the government.

Politicians, scientists, civil servants, representatives of the beef and food industry and relatives of CJD victims will be called to give evidence to the inquiry over the coming four months.

After this first phase of the inquiry, those criticised during the process will be given the chance to respond to charges laid against them.

While in opposition, Mr. Blair's Labour Party persistently argued that the then Conservative government had mishandled the issue, prolonging the suffering of British farmers, whose export markets evaporated overnight.

Those conducting the inquiry have already contacted more than 100 ministers, civil servants and scientists and have compiled a "formidable" body of documentary evidence.

## Dog saves boy from drowning

BANGKOK (AFP) — A dog saved a 10-year-old Thai boy from drowning after he leapt into a pond to save his sister and mother from the same fate, police said Monday.

Police said the boy, Ekkarin Piarunoi, jumped into the pond to rescue his nine-year-old sister and his mother, who had gone to

wash themselves after a day of fishing at Suphan Buri, about 100 kilometre south-west of here.

His mother was the first to get into trouble, followed by his younger sister who tried to help even though she could not swim.

Ekkarin jumped in but he also could not swim and was at the point of drowning

when the half-German shepherd dog, Zu, pulled him to safety by the collar of his shirt.

Ekkarin's mother and sister drowned before anyone else could help.

That newspapers reported that the family was very poor and would have to rely on charity to pay for funeral expenses.



There will be global media organisations in the future far more coherent and integrated than Murdoch's ramshackle empire — but there will probably be half a dozen of them. Which means, if the history of the media is anything to go by, that they will keep each other honest. After all, the most striking part of this sad and silly tale is that no single manoeuvre of the dirty digger, nothing, stayed secret for as much as a year.

...





# Insurance companies voice reservation on draft law

By Issam Qadmani  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordanian insurance companies voiced reservations on a draft insurance law during a one day meeting held here Monday.

Representatives of these companies demanded that some articles of the draft law be amended, especially

article 25. Most of the companies' directors who took part in the meeting said some parts of the draft law are bound to cause heavy losses for their companies while others said the law can cause a real crisis between their companies and the government.

The draft law was advocated by the government as a means to help mergers

between different companies.

Daoud Kurd, director general of Al Arab Insurance Company, criticised the draft law which, he said, calls for separation of different kinds of insurance that companies can sell.

He said: "If this principle is to be applied it would lead to the complete disappearance of many compa-

nies and would deal a heavy blow to the insurance sector."

Basel Hindawi, controller of insurance at the Ministry of Industry and Trade, said the current law on the insurance sector needs strengthening to ensure solvency and sound financial status.

While the current law and regulations contain some of

the principles which are important, they do not provide for effective control of the solvency of the insurance companies, which is the basic objective of financial supervision in the insurance sector. Dr. Hindawi added.

He said the new draft insurance law will be based on the European Union insurance law and will

ensure that companies maintain an adequate capital base from the risks.

The meeting which was under the patronage of minister of trade and industry, Hani Mulki, was attended by experts on insurance from the World Bank and the Republic of Ireland which had contributed to the drafting of the law.

## Indonesian economy bleeds in IMF standoff

JAKARTA (R) — Indonesia and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Monday sought to mend fences after IMF unhappiness with the pace of government reforms caused it to delay a much-needed injection of money into the economy.

The delay in the disbursement of a \$3 billion IMF tranche threatened to stretch the country's foreign exchange reserves to the limit or beyond, analysts said.

Foreign Minister Ali Alatas attempted to calm the tensions with the fund, saying President Suharto was committed to the reforms and did not want any alteration in the IMF programme.

"We are going to implement the agreed programme on the reform and restructuring of our economy," Alatas told reporters on the sidelines of a session of the People's Consultative Assembly (MPR) which Tuesday will re-elect Suharto for a seventh five-year term of office.

The IMF also played down the growing confrontation with

Indonesia. The fund's country representative in Jakarta, Kadhim Al-Eyd, told Reuters a review team hoped soon to conclude talks with the government on the disbursement of \$3.0 billion from its more than \$40 billion financial bail-out package for the economically ravaged country.

Economic analysts said Indonesia's finances were in dire straits and the delay of the IMF instalment and of about \$2.5 billion from the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank which were to accompany the tranche, would stretch foreign exchange reserves. News of the delay in the disbursement and comments by President Suharto and a government minister over the weekend criticising the IMF and its prescribed reform package spooked markets around the region.

"Let's be honest about it, it is actually very serious in Indonesia," Daim Zainuddin, economic adviser to the Malaysian government, told Reuters in Kuala Lumpur.

The rupiah plunged in early trade Monday and fell to as low as 12,250 to the dollar before clawing back to around 11,000 by the close after Bank Indonesia raised short-term interest rates of central bank papers.

The Jakarta stock market index closed down over 3.2 per cent at 495.81 points.

Singapore's Straits Times index closed down more than two per cent while Seoul stocks fell more than 3.4 per cent on woes linked to Indonesia.

"The IMF package will impose a liberal economy, which is not in line with article 33 (of the constitution)," Suharto told Yusuf Syakir, a leader of the minority United Development Party, Sunday.

But in a harder statement, State Minister of National Development Planning Ginandjar Kartasasmita warned that multilateral agencies such as the IMF should not degrade Indonesia, a newspaper reported Monday.

"We welcome international bodies such as the IMF and the World Bank to help Indonesia.

But if that means they can impose their will or humiliate us, we would be better off without their aid," Ginandjar, who said he was speaking as a ruling Golkar party official, was quoted by the Indonesian Observer as saying.

The IMF executive board had been due to decide on the second \$3.0 billion tranche by March 15, but the fund said Friday the board would be unable to meet before April. The money was intended for balance of payments support.

Because the delay was announced after weeks of complaints that Indonesia was dragging its feet on the reform programme, many took it as a sign of IMF ire.

"Indonesia is facing severe liquidity problems," said Thio Chin Loo, an analyst at Banque Paribas in Singapore. "The delay in IMF aid is surely adding to the already dire financial position."

"Unless a real commitment and action is taken by Indonesia to step up reform efforts, the outlook looks increasingly

bleak."

Other analysts said the demands on Indonesia's foreign exchange reserves were mounting because of its guarantee of all local bank liabilities and deposits and that reports of a \$2.2 billion short-dollar position at state-owned bank Ekspor Impor (EXIM) could just be the tip of the iceberg.

The analysts noted that Indonesia's gross foreign assets amounted to \$16.33 billion at the end of February, down from \$19.06 billion at the end of January.

Analysts, noting that only about \$10 billion of this was in usable foreign exchange reserves, said they were mystified at the reasons for the fall.

"Say they are using about \$1.0 billion per month on food. But the rest must be going to support the banking system and probably to cover forward liabilities," said one analyst.

"It's a severe balance of payments crunch. If Exim is in any way reflective of forward swaps by local banks, the government is incredibly close to

being bankrupt," he said.

In Jakarta, however, interest remained focused on politics as the MPR, the nation's top policy-making body, continued a session that will return Suharto as president.

Suharto, the only candidate for the job, will be formally elected by the mostly hand-picked 1,000-member assembly Tuesday and sworn in Wednesday.

Within the MPR there has been no opposition to Suharto, an autocratic former army general who has ruled Indonesia for more than three decades, but protests have mounted across the nation blaming him and the government for the economic crisis.

Students held protest rallies inside university campuses in Jakarta and the nearby city of Bandung Monday and more demonstrations are likely over the next few days, student leaders said.

Police and troops were posted outside the gates of the campuses to ensure the protests did not spill over into the streets.

**Ramallah**

For local enquiries contact:  
972 29987802/3  
972 29987804 (FAX)

For enquiries in Jordan contact:  
962 6 5607471  
962 6 5692964 (FAX)

**BritishBank**

are pleased to announce that their Ramallah office is now open to provide international banking services in the Palestinian Autonomous Area including Global Automated Teller Machine Service.

**BritishBank**  
Jaffa Street  
P.O.Box: 2067  
Ramallah  
Palestinian Autonomous Area.

**BritishBank**  
The British Bank of the Middle East  
Member RSCB Group

**A FURNISHED APARTMENT IN WESTERN SHMEISAN FOR RENT**

Area: 220 sq.m., second floor apartment. Consisting of three bedrooms, two bathrooms, guest room, spacious living room, veranda, independent central heating, telephone, maid room, modern equipped kitchen and luxurious furniture.

Please call Tel.: 5665711 — Fax: 5664256

**BritishBank opens branch in Ramallah**

BRITISHBANK has announced the opening of a new branch in Ramallah in the Palestinian autonomous area. The bank will offer a comprehensive range of personal and corporate banking services fully supported by its parent company, the HSBC Group.

The branch opened for business on Feb. 8, 1998 following the receipt of approval from the Palestine Monetary Authority. It is conventionally located between the industrial and main downtown areas of Ramallah. Anton Lolas, branch manager, said, "BritishBank is now in a position to offer a wide range of modern banking services including personal banking products, such as MasterCard credit card and international ATM services to residents of the West Bank. It is the bank's goal to provide customers with the highest level of quality service and tailored products to meet their needs."

John Pascoe, chief executive officer, commented, "we are delighted to have the opportunity to contribute to the development and progress of Ramallah. The new branch illustrates BritishBank's ongoing commitment to serve our customers throughout the Middle East."

BritishBank is the largest and most widely represented international bank in the Middle East with 31 branches throughout the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Bahrain, Qatar, Jordan, Lebanon, and the Palestinian autonomous area and an offshore banking unit in Bahrain.

**THE Daily Crossword** Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

1 Hidden supply  
6 Beige  
10 Majority  
14 Orderly arrangement  
15 At that time  
16 Woody Guthrie's boy  
17 Stratched  
18 Shallow notch  
19 Close at hand  
20 Fuzzy brown tropical fruit  
21 Graduation garb  
23 Transmitter  
25 Film reel  
26 Kingly  
28 Rock-boring tool  
32 Flying saucer, for short  
34 Nebraska city  
37 Ascend  
38 Poetic meadows  
40 Wounded by a wasp  
42 Michmash dish  
43 Makes a home  
45 French painter  
47 Head cover  
48 Fasten  
50 Terra firma  
52 Alcoves  
55 Most recent  
58 Deceased  
62 Tickle Me  
63 "M\*A\*S\*H" star  
64 Spotted  
65 Transit payment  
66 Borodin opera, "Prince"  
67 Set up for a drive  
68 Dancing Fred's sister  
69 Classified fat  
70 Fast planes, for short  
71 Senator Kefauver

4 Halogen compound  
5 Look up and down  
6 Sicilian volcano  
7 Polka tokens  
8 Story so far, briefly  
9 Loosen one's tie  
10 Mutators  
11 Popular cookie  
12 Cabbage dish  
13 Ripped  
21 Studies late  
22 Mrs. Copperfield  
24 Self conceit  
27 Thin strip of wood  
29 Tropical hat  
30 On the briny  
31 Gingrich, lo friends  
32 Arm bone  
33 Leg ends  
35 Sheds  
36 Bancroft or Bolyn  
39 Benchmark

41 \$1,000  
44 Flat-bottomed boat  
46 Anger  
49 Lifting devices  
51 Nubby woolens  
53 Leg joints  
54 Shooting at clay targets  
56 Grin  
57 Carries  
58 Flag down  
59 Gymnast  
60 Starch  
61 Concludes  
65 Sally Field film, "Norma"

**Peanuts**

I SEE WOODSTOCK IS DOING REPAIR WORK ON HIS NEST AGAIN.

**Andy Capp**

LOOK, JUST GET YOURSELF TO BED, EH?

**Mutt'n' Jeff**

ON MY GOSH! JEFF WAS IN AN AUTO ACCIDENT! I HOPE HE'S O.K.!

YES, AN PAL! TELL ME, DOC, HOW IS HE?

NO RESPONSE! I'M SORRY, THAT'S IT!

OH, NO! AN PAL! ITS LUCKY I HAD HIM INSURED FOR \$10,000!

YOU'RE NOT? BUT THE DOC SAID YOU ARE!

LIE DOWN! DO YOU WANT TO MAKE A LAM OUT OF THE DOCTOR?

HOW SHE FELT WHEN THE DOCTOR SAID, "NO PROBLEM, NO CHARGE."

**HOROSCOPE**

**FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 1998**

By Linda C. Black, Tribune Media Services, Inc.

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) A lunch date could lead to romance. If you're not in a relationship, get close to someone you'd like to start one with. It's a good afternoon to begin a group project. Try a bigger challenge than ever before. You need something like that to keep you interested.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) Make your major decisions as early as possible. Don't procrastinate. Later in the focus shifts to financial matters. It may seem like there's not enough money to do what you want. Remember that old line about necessity being the mother of invention? Necessity in pushing you to try new things. One of them is bound to work.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) If your work's done, you might be able to travel this weekend. How about skiing at Tahoe, or perhaps the Swiss Alps? This won't happen if you've been goofing off. Put in the correction, and next time this condition comes around, it's off to the Alps for you. Meanwhile, back to work.

**CANCER:** (June 22 to July 21) A friend can help you solve a difficult problem this morning. Talk it over with one who's more predictable than you are. This person had had the same lifestyle for longer than you can remember. Your problem is that things in your life are changing. If you need a little stability, go to one who has a lot of it.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) Complete a project this morning. You'll make a good impression on an older person and increase the money coming in. This afternoon, you'll have more chance to socialize. That's also your best opportunity for romance. In fact, it may find you. It looks like your partner is in an aggressive mood. This could be interesting.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) Ask for what you want early this morning. Later, everything gets confusing. Your boss or teacher or parent will order you to do one thing, then expect you to have something else done at the same time. Don't you get frazzled too. Instead, help this person get organized. That will make both of your lives a lot easier.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) The morning starts out slow, but the days gets better. By afternoon, you should be doing pretty well. You'll be able to find just the right words, especially with loved ones and children. You'll also be firm and decisive, so watch what you say. You'll have to keep any agreements you make this evening.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) You could get a good opportunity this afternoon. If you have your budget figured out, you'll know how much you can afford to spend. Money is not necessarily tight, but it never hurts to spend it wisely. The time you spend planning earlier in this day will show up as money saved later.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) Things will fall together this morning, and money might even fall into your pocket. It's not from winning the lottery. It's from work you've done recently. Celebrate at lunch with your favourite person. Choose a date who can teach you something. It looks like love and learning are linked right now. This could turn to be something a bit more personal. It's up to you.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) Your life should start moving faster around the middle of the day. It might seem like you have too much to do, but that's never stopped you before. You're probably finding it exciting. Don't forget to get the clients to sign on the dotted line. If you forget something today, the mistake could be an expensive one.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) A problem you've been struggling with starts to ease around the middle of the day. The solution either becomes obvious, or you simply stop caring. Your interest shifts to romance tonight, and it's about time. You've done without it for long enough. Set up a dinner date. You and your sweetheart have a lot to talk about.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) Spend the morning studying, so you can handle a difficult situation this afternoon. It's not as hard as it is confusing. You want to ask everyone else's opinion, but you need to make sure your own interests are protected. You tend to do what everybody else wants. That's admirable, but not really necessary.

**Birdstone of March:** Aquamarine — Jasper.

**JUMBLE.** THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

REELD  
SERCS  
FREPER  
LEXFAN

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here:

Yesterday's Jumbles: ABHOR GLOAT STUCCO SHERRY  
Answer: Easy for a reporter to get at a doughnut shop — THE "HOLE" STORY



Daily Beat

A review of news from the Arabic Press

Halaqah gives low marks to food industry

ACCORDING TO Secretary-General of the Ministry of Industry and Trade, Mohammad Halaqah, the weak competitiveness of Jordan's food industry is attributable to the absence of clear and specific strategies, weak administrative and marketing skills and also weak research and development activities. He said, during a seminar organised by Dajani Consultancy Company, the food industry is capable of competing price-wise but in terms of quality, the sector has to adopt the necessary international standards such as ISO and HACCP, a system to analyse the risks in food industries. Dr. Halaqah described the food industry as a modest sector in terms of its contribution to the gross domestic product (GDP) as it does not exceed two per cent, whereas the share of "industry" and convertible industries in the GDP stands at 19.7 per cent and 13.4 per cent respectively. He pointed out that industrial exports represent 86 per cent of total exports, noting that 62 per cent of industrial exports are products of convertible industries and 9.9 per cent are products of food industries. In addition, Dr. Halaqah indicated, the food industries employ 12.6 per cent of the total industrial labour. Dr. Halaqah called for concentrating on convertible industries, especially those of medium and small-size plants. He concluded by mentioning that five Jordanian companies are on their way towards adopting the HACCP system in the country.

Jordanian bankers, financial experts see no cause for concern regarding Palestinian currency

COMMENTING ON reports that the Palestinian National Authority intends to issue Palestinian currency and that the governor of the monetary authority has announced that studies and research have started in this regard, Jordanian financial experts and bankers stressed that such a step would not affect Jordanian reserves due to the low volume of currency in circulation in Palestinian areas. The experts and bankers indicated that a decision to issue currency is considered as a political move before it can be considered economic. They noted that the present stage lacks much of the components that help in issuing a Palestinian currency. According to sources at the Central Bank of Jordan, eight Jordanian banks having 49 branches operate in the Palestinian territories. Total deposits at these banks amounted to JD1.23 billion in Jordanian dinars and other currencies at the end of November 1997. Credits extended totalled JD284.3 million. Based on these statistics, the bankers and financial experts indicated that since half of the Palestinian banking system belongs to Jordanian banks and capital, it is highly important that both Jordanians and Palestinians should maintain close coordination to handle any financial or monetary developments.

Oil price falls below \$13 a barrel on OPEC discord

LONDON (AFP) — The benchmark Brent crude oil price fell sharply Monday amid discord in the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) over how to shore up prices.

Brent for delivery in April fell below \$13 a barrel late in the day to \$12.97, its lowest level since March 28, 1994 — compared with \$13.45 at the Monday opening and \$13.60 at the Friday close.

The plunge came in reaction to a report in the Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) that the chances of an extraordinary OPEC meeting to consider production cuts had "fallen virtually to zero."

An oil analyst at Salomon Smith Barney trading

house, Peter Gignoux, said: "There is not going to be a meeting, I am positive."

OPEC Secretary General Rikman Lukman called Wednesday for a special session on prices to be held on March 16 in Vienna. He wanted the meeting to be held during a session of the ministerial-level market surveillance committee which groups the secretary general, Iran, Nigeria, and Kuwait.

But the MEES newsletter noted that the appeal by the group's Indonesian presidency had failed to raise a favourable response except among the three surveillance committee member countries.

It said the other group members "declined the invitation or did not respond."

Venezuela, which produces almost a million barrels per day (bpd) over its quota, has said it feels "no urgency" over holding a session considering production cuts.

If the March 16 ministerial gathering does not take place, the next regular scheduled OPEC ministerial conference is not until June.

Oil prices have fallen sharply since December, when OPEC decided to raise its 1998 production ceiling to 27.5 million barrels per day from its previous 25 million bpd ceiling. Reduced demand from Asia as economic turmoil there bites has accelerated the price fall.

Prices have tumbled in the face of increased OPEC output and higher Iraqi production, coupled with low demand due to a warm northern hemisphere winter.

"The downturn is intact and the market will be under pressure in the next few weeks, you can be sure," Mr. Gignoux said.

OPEC members have been in dispute as prices fall. Saudi Arabia, by far the biggest oil producer, wants to bring fellow member Venezuela into line and to respect output ceilings.

Saudi Arabia, which initiated the quota hike, insists that it will not cut unilaterally its output, but Venezuela, OPEC's biggest

over-quota producer in January at 917,000 bpd, has snubbed calls to attend the latest special meeting.

While not responding directly to secretary general's invitation, Saudi Arabia said it would participate in joint production cuts if "significant" steps were taken by over-quota producers.

Leo Drollas at the Centre of Global Energy Studies said that feuding between Saudi Arabia and Venezuela was a "childish game."

"In the fight for market share, Venezuela cannot compete with the Saudis," the oil analyst said, adding that "it is a game with no real winner but losers all round."

Personal computer market unsettled by Asia

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Back to back warnings this week of lower earnings from two of the world's largest tech firms, Intel and Motorola, point to a difficult year for the sector as the effect of the Asian contraction begins to be felt.

"We have a major problem right now in the industry because of low inventories, low prices and the situation in Asia," Mona Eralba, an analyst with the investment firm Gruntal, said in a CNBC Television

interview. Added Edward La Varnway of the commercial bank First Albany: "It'll probably be the case that there will be more of this — and technology stocks will clearly take a major hit."

Intel, the world's largest computer chip manufacturer, revealed Wednesday that first quarter sales would be 10 per cent below fourth quarter 1997 results, largely in response to weaker demand from computer makers.

Motorola followed suit, announcing that currency depreciations in Asia would mean earnings well below levels predicted by market analysts.

The communications and semiconductor giant was expected to be hurt both by lower Asian sales and competition at home from cheaper Asian imports.

Intel and Motorola serve different markets, the former geared exclusively to computer makers while the latter turns out telephones, satellite equipment and electronic chips for the

automobile industry.

Mr. La Varnway noted that "semiconductors, software and telecommunications equipment seem to have the most exposure in Asia, alongside metals and chemicals."

While the Asian crisis may pose obstacles to earnings growth, they will not be permanent.

"The worst is going to be over in the first quarter," said Ms. Mona Eralba.

Mr. La Varnway offered a more cautious assessment for high-tech prospects in

Asia.

"It's still not clear when they will recover, but (Asia) has a young and educated population and that's a very good sign for the longer term," he said.

By contrast the impact of cheap personal computers on the industry is likely to linger.

Companies and consumers alike are rushing to buy personal computers at prices less than \$1,000.

Introduced on the U.S. market a year ago, these machines now represent 35 per cent of the market.

"That trend will continue," Mr. Lane predicted. "You don't need a race car to get the supermarket."

Users of inexpensive personal computers can happily edit texts, access the Internet and send and receive e-mail and have no need of the latest technology.

As a result, while U.S. retail computer sales jumped 54 per cent in January over a year earlier, they increased only 10 per cent in dollar terms.

Egypt, Tunisia setting up free trade zone

CAIRO (AFP) — Egypt and Tunisia have signed an agreement creating a free trade zone and calling for the total liberalisation of bilateral trade by 2007.

Egyptian Prime Minister Kamal Al Ganzouri and Tunisian counterpart Hamed Karoui signed the agreement providing for the total and immediate liberalisation of 58 Egyptian goods and 42 Tunisian items, the government newspaper Al Ahram reported.

"Customs duties on other items will be reduced by 20 per cent annually until bilateral trade is completely liberalised in the year 2007," Dr. Ganzouri said.

He said the agreement "will form the core of an Arab free trade zone."

The two countries are trying to raise the value of bilateral trade to \$300 million by 2000, or five times its current level.

REUTERS REUTERS

The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates

Prices as at 9/03/98 19:25

Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	FRF	ITL	ESP
US Dollar	1.8271	0.6111	1.4889	127.78	1.4135	1797.00	2.0896	6.1288
DE Mark	0.5478	1.0000	0.6342	0.8160	0.9390	0.7732	0.8334	1.1272
GB Sterling	1.6385	2.9915	1.0000	2.4372	2.3192	2.9417	3.3708	10.0255
CH Franc	0.6718	1.2283	0.4100	1.0000	0.9486	1.2082	1.3823	4.1117
JP Yen	0.0078	1.4281	0.4777	1.1647	1.0000	1.407	161.08	4.7923
CA Dollar	0.7076	1.2903	0.4301	1.0488	1.11	1.2855	1.4543	4.3281
IT Lira	0.0006	1.0168	0.3388	0.0828	0.7888	11.45	3.4068	1.0000
NL Guilder	0.4888	0.868	0.2968	0.282	0.2201	0.4885	0.7314	2.8742
FR Franc	0.1632	0.2982	0.0987	24.2898	20.83	0.2307	33.89	33.6000

Middle Eastern Currencies

Currency	USD	JOD	SAR	BAH	QAR	KWD	LEB	EGP
US Dollar	1.0000	0.7090	3.7503	0.3770	3.6408	0.3068	3.8728	1.6280
Jordan Dinar	1.4104	1.0000	5.2896	0.5317	5.1391	0.4310	5.1804	2.1551
Saudi Riyal	0.2688	0.1891	1.0000	0.1005	0.9815	0.88	407.43	0.9068
Bahrain Dinar	2.65	1.8806	9.9477	1.0000	9.88	0.8105	8.74	4053.05
Qatar Dinar	0.2747	0.1947	1.0301	1.0301	1.0301	0.8039	1.01	418.69
Kuwait Dinar	3.2728	2.3204	12.7339	1.2338	11.82	12.02	5000.82	0.5332
Lebanese Dinar	0.2723	0.1930	1.0211	1.0211	0.8913	0.0832	2.40	0.9260
Emirates Dinar	0.885	0.6480	2.4544	0.2487	2.3827	0.2000	2.4037	2.2235
Egyptian	0.2843	0.2087	1.1038	0.1110	1.0716	0.0888	1.0811	448.75

Energy

Oil	East	West
Brent	12.44	12.85
WT Texas	14.41	14.87
Bonny	12.44	12.85
Dubai	11.16	11.80
UL Gas	144.00	148.00

Mid-East Currencies

Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY
SA Riyal	0.2688	0.4874	0.18284	0.39728	34.9878
AE Dirham	0.2723	0.49789	0.18837	0.40598	34.9068
KW Dinar	3.2728	5.98088	2	4.87567	418.41
BH Dinar	0.3770	4.84731	1.62075	3.95257	338.088
CY Pound	1.855	3.4074	1.1983	2.7772	238.273

JOD Cross Rates

Currency	Buy	Sell
US Dollar	0.708	0.710
GB Sterling	1.1882	1.185
DE Mark	0.3863	0.3882
CH Franc	0.4745	0.4788
FR Franc	0.1162	0.1168
JP Yen	0.5818	0.5848
NL Guilder	0.3427	0.3444
IT Lira	0.3829	0.3849

Currency Deposit Rates (Bid)

Currency	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months	1 Year
USD	5.55	5.55	5.55	5.57
GBP	7.40	7.38	7.38	7.41
JPY	0.50	0.50	0.48	0.51
DEM	3.37	3.40	3.48	3.58
FRF	3.70	3.68	3.70	3.67
CHF	0.76	0.84	0.96	1.12
ITL	5.62	5.63	5.14	4.83

Small Equity Indices

Index	Value	Change	High	Low	P.C.
New York	DOW JONES	8597.53	28.14	0.33	8583.78
New York	S&P 500	1056.57	0.88	0.08	1055.02
London	FT-SE 100	5814.8	31.9	0.55	5826.8
Tokyo	NIKKEI 225	16972.83	-189.44	-0.93	17352.4
Paris	CAC 40	3825.85	42.83	1.22	3831.27
Frankfurt	DAX	4780.83	64.88	1.38	4805.38

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET										
HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - SHEIKH SAUD										
TELEPHONE: 607171 / 607179										
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR MONDAY 09/03/1998										
PAST 12 MONTHS HIGH	COMPANY'S NAME	P / E	DIV.	NO. OF TRAN.	NO. OF SHARES	VALUE TRADED JD	OPEN PRICE	CLOSE PRICE	CHANGE	
346.000	250.000	ARAB BANK	15.7	1.17	6	160	54420	339.00	340.50	1.50+
S 2.540	1.330	BANK OF JORDAN	4.3	0.00	1	100	135	1.35	1.35	-
S 2.680	1.650	INDUSTRIAL DEV. BK.	10.3	6.11	16	10100	17278	1.72	1.71	-0.01
S 5.300	4.610	THE HOUSING BK.	29.9	1.94	4	3100	15500	5.00	5.00	-
S 4.180	1.820	JOR. KUWAIT BANK	10.1	0.00	12	5789	10683	1.82	1.89	+0.07+
S 920	620	JOR. GULF BANK	4.2	9.86	2	500	353	69	71	-0.02+
S 4.020	1.990	JOR. ISLAMIC BANK	10.4	4.71	17	6899	14082	2.04	2.04	-
S 2.350	1.610	JOR. INV. FID. BANK/NEW	E	0.00	2	2000	3420	1.72	1.71	-0.01
1.900	800	ISRAELI-AL (ISRAITA)	E	15.79	25	11450	10811	90	95	+0.05+
BANK SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 236.96	%CHG: +0.39	85	40098	126690			
S 1.420	0.900	ARABIAN SEAS INSUR.	10.0	0.00	1	800	880	1.05	1.10	+0.05+
2.400	1.590	JOR. FRENCH INSUR.	6.5	10.73	10	3150	7413	2.35	2.33	-0.02
INSURANCE SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 123.42	%CHG: +0.12	11	3950	8293			
2.140	1.550	JOR. ELECTRIC PWR.	10.0	4.81	16	10650	22195	2.10	2.08	-0.02
4.030	1.320	ISRAELI EL. UTILITY	13.4	0.11	1	900	900	2.25	2.25	-
4.630	2.450	MIDWEST MINERALS	53.1	0.00	6	1805	7677	4.62	4.63	-0.01
1.550	0.930	NATL. PORTFOLIO	0.00	0.00	29	115100	130927	1.14	1.12	-0.02
610	370	JORDAN INTL. TRAD.	20.0	0.00	7	2700	1056	41	39	-0.02
9.270	6.700	ALRAI	9.5	6.42	2	200	1865	9.27	9.35	-0.08
1.480	1.150	MID. EAST HOTELS	17.8	0.00	1	250	293	1.20	1.17	-0.03
4.800	2.850	ARAB INTL. INV. EDUC.	11.1	1.79	1	250	1218	4.50	4.47	-0.03
1.090	0.900	ZAKIA EDUCATION	9	0.00	5	2330	2236	96	96	0.00
1.830	1.630	UNIFIED CO.	7.7	6.32	2	750	1300	1.75	1.74	-0.01
810	600	UNION LAND DEV.	9	0.00	2	1050	715	69	68	-0.01
SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 121.90	%CHG: -0.42	72	135285	170280			
4.450	2.690	JOR. CEMENT FACT.	19.8	3.74	31	15151	44971	3.00	2.94	-0.06
4.140	3.050	JOR. PROSPECTION MINES	9.3	2.99	1	150	803	3.35	3.35	0.00
7.050	5.200	ARAB PORTFOLIO	15.1	3.09	1	150	9610	6.25	6.20	-0.05
11.160	9.200	JOR. PETROL REFINERY	10.5	8.22	8	1430	15421	10.80	10.82	-0.02+
2.610	1.360	INDUSTRIAL COMM. AGR.	9	0.00	2	213	270	1.28	1.27	-0.01
5.700	3.440	ARAB PHARM. MANF.	14.8	3.72	95	32150	173215	5.50	5.37	-0.13
6.350	4.400	DAR ALADAMA DV. INV.	15.3	4.01	9	10400	64960	6.29	6.24	-0.05
3.450	2.220	JOR. ALUM. IND.	7.0	8.42	9	2500	7382	2.94	2.97	-0.03
610	400	LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	10.6	0.00	6	15050	76868	53	50	-0.03
1.140	0.660	NATIONAL STEEL IND.	9	0.00	1	500	345	70	69	-0.01
650	310	NATIONAL IND.	9	0.00	2	1750	980	58	56	-0.02
1.330	0.370	OFFSHORE PETRO. CHEM.	9	0.00	24	20150	8914	46	45	-0.01
1760	500	JOR. ROCKWELL IND.	9	0.00	2	1100	618	58	58	0.00
2.320	1.380	UNIV. CHEM. IND.	14.0	6.45	1	500	775	1.55	1.55	0.00
S 3.000	0.920	NATL. CABLE WIRE. MPAC	28.2	0.00	22	9400	10856	1.19	1.17	-0.02
S 1.700	0.890	JOR. SUI. PIPE. CHEM.	9	0.00	26	14800	9192	65	62	-0.03
S 1.560	1.150	ARAB PHARM. CHEM.	17.9	5.00	23	10500	14730	1.44	1.40	-0.04
+ 1.120	0.560	KAWTHAR INVEST.	53.2	0.00	1	250	135	56	54	-0.02
S 1.700	0.810	UNIV. MODN. INDUS.	F	21.70	40	61700	63209	1.05	1.02	-0.03
S 1.410	0.690	JOR. IND. RESOURCES	10.8	12.90	40	37450	30257	0.82	0.80	-0.02
S 1.350	0.700	MID. CHEM. IND.	14.9	5.00	13	4130	4130	1.47	1.45	-0.02
1.080	0.810	JOR. NEW CABLE CO.	41.9	0.00	50	40600	42003	1.05	1.03	-0.02
1.080	1.290	EL. & W. RAY READY WEAR	50.0	0.00	5	2300	3258	1.46	1.42	-0.04
1.150	1.080	INTL. TOWERS	12.0	0.00	12	6000	7680	6.5	6.5	0.00
850	660	JORDAN STEEL	37.1	6.10	32	40015	32513	0.82	0.82	-
840	570	MID. EAST COMPLEX	7.9	15.63	18	24500	15788	65	64	-0.01
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 115.66	%CHG: -0.93	555	488709	637790			
GRAND TOTAL			INDEX: 171.57	%CHG: -0.12	723	658042	943053			
PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR MONDAY 09/03/1998										
M 1.050	0.960	EXPORTE & FID. BAK. 75%	17.8	0.00	1	2000	1420	96	96	-
M 0.530	0.340	JOR. TRADE FAC.	10.7	0.00	7	10450	4078	40	40	-
M 0.660	0.480	NATL. COMMER. CENTERS	E	0.00	4	285	170	60	60	-
M 0.800	0.660	UNION INV. 50%	E	0.00	5	14500	3480	74	74	-
M 0.360	0.260	ARAB FID. INVEST.	10.0	0.00	29	10800	28610	47	45	-0.02
M 1.000	0.720	AL-SHAH INV. CO.	0	0.00	4	25000	23500	93	94	+0.01+
M 1.000	0.850	ARAB JOR. INVEST. CO.	17.0	0.00	2	14750	14750	1.00	1.00	-
M 0.370	0.240	ARAB FID. INV. CO.	10.0	0.00	22	61250	41250	44	43	-0.01
M 0.470	0.240	ARAB INTL. INV. TRD.	39.2	0.00	52	94750	32670	36	34	-0.02
M 0.540	0.280	NATL. TEXTILE	9	0.00	2	750	278	39	37	-0.02
M 0.750	0.360	NATL. WOL. IND. (HAMICO)	9	0.00	25	48720	19003	39	39	-
M 0.400	0.250	ARAB EL. IND.	9	0.00	35	20000	20000	56	56	0.00
M 0.680	0.580	MIDWEST PHARM. 90%	9	0.00	7	5250	2953	68	67	-0.01
M 1.500	0.860	UNION TOBACCO 75%	9	0.00	0	52	59	138	138	-0.02
M 0.460	0.240	TRD. ENG.	10.0	0.00	2	1500	2572	10	9	-0.01
M 0.950	0.550	ADVANCED PHARMASIA IND.	E	0.00	9	13830	8999	66	65	-0.01
M 0.670	0.370	PEARL SAN. P. CORV.	E	0.00	2	2419	895	37	37	-
M 0.490	0.740	NATL. POWER	10.0	0.00	1	2000	1100	55	55	0.00
M 0.950	0.470	OPTICALS HEARING 75%	E	0.00	5	3000	1080	62	61	-0.01
M 1.000	0.650	NAT. ALUMINIUM 75%	94.6	0.00	19	22100	9568	69	68	-0.01
M 1.000	0.700	ARAB INTL. COMMER.	10.0	0.00	1	2000	1000	1.00	1.01	+0.01+
M 1.000	0.750	KIDAL PRINT CO. 75%	E	0.00	13	41000	26473	88	91	+0.03+
GRAND TOTAL					236	420463	206355			



# Sizzling Agassi wins second straight title

SCOTTSDALE, Arizona (AFP) — Andre Agassi won his second tournament in a row Sunday, defeating Australian Jason Stoltenberg 6-4, 7-6 (7/3) in the ATP Tour event here.

The victory in gives the 27-year-old World No. 50 a 16-2 win-loss mark in 1998.

His 16 wins are one better than the 15 of Australian Open champion Petr Korda. Greg Rusedski, Marcelo Rios and Karol Kucera and prove that the Agassi comeback effort is gaining serious momentum.

Agassi added his third Scottsdale crown, a cheque for \$45,000 and 150 computer ranking points to the title he took in San Jose, California, last month over Pete Sampras.

The former World No. 1 will move into the 30s on the ATP Tour rankings and stands in good shape for his next event, the Champions Cup starting Monday in Indian Wells, California.

The victory was Agassi's 36th career title, putting him fourth on the list of active players.

Stoltenberg was playing in his second final of the year after losing in Adelaide last January in the trophy match.

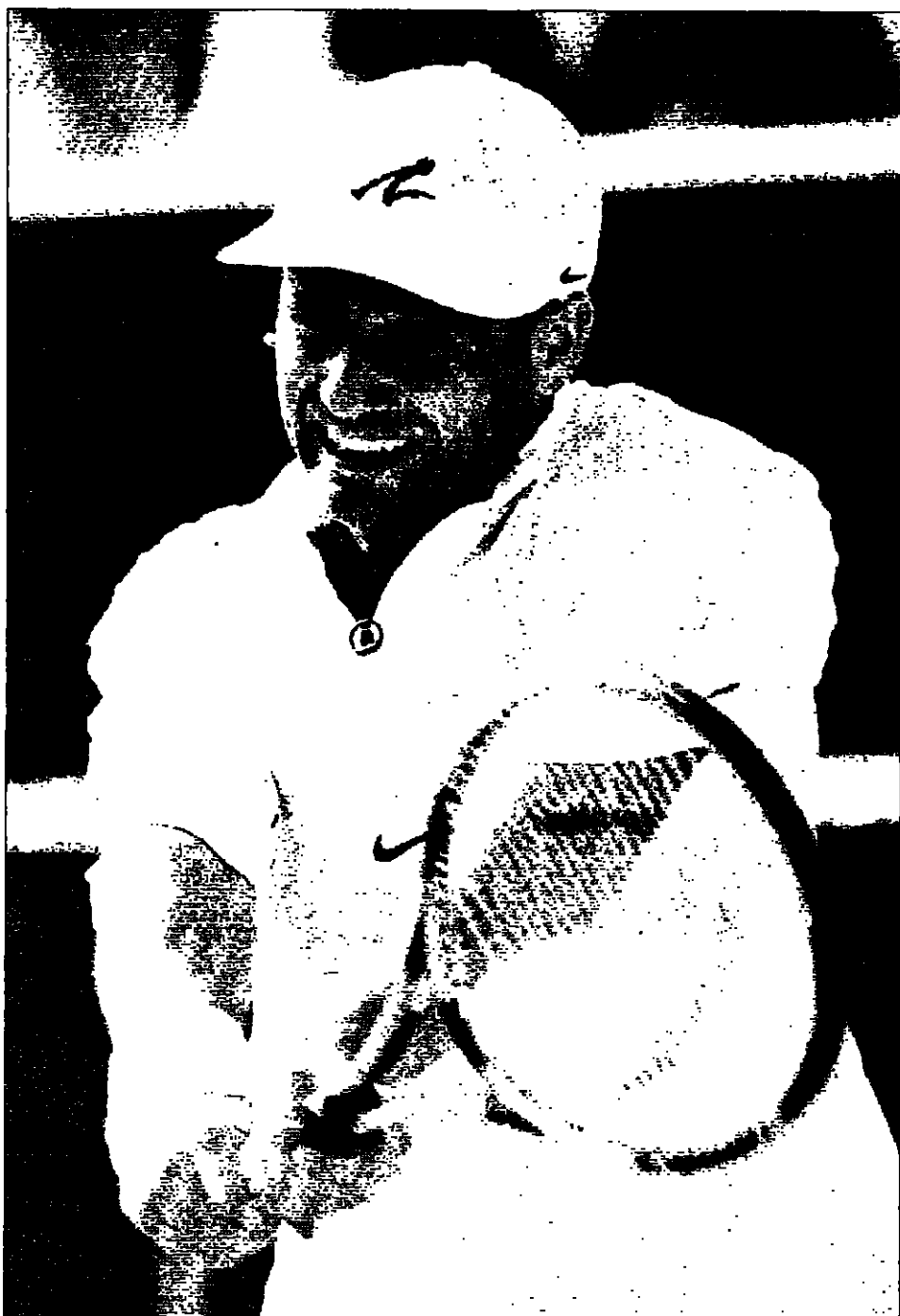
The world No. 47 has surprised himself with his fast start this year after sitting out the last four months of 1997 to let a knee injury heal.

Agassi, continuing the hot pace he has set all week, struck first in the match, breaking the Australian for 2-1 when Stoltenberg netted a forehand.

The Australian came through a game featuring five deuces totalling 18 points to hold for 2-3 under sunny conditions with none of the wind which had bothered competitors for the past two days.

Stoltenberg fought to break back in the sixth game, levelling the set at three apiece.

Agassi didn't hesitate to regain his edge with a break for 4-3, and moved out to 5-3 with a love game. Agassi claimed the set on the first of two



Andre Agassi

sets Agassi produced a love game for 5-4 and notched his first ace of the day to bring on a tiebreaker. The American reached three match points and needed only one.

"It's no miracle cure, just a lot of hard work," Agassi said of a post-Australian Open win streak which has stretched to 10 matches. "I'm out there getting better and playing well."

"Today was an outstanding match all the way around. We both played well. We broke other back and forth in both sets and

that shows the level of intensity that we had — no one was willing to give it up."

Agassi saved seven of nine break points in the one hour, 36-minute match. "We both played well. It was as good of a two-set match as you'll ever see. It was hard tennis."

Agassi hopes to go from strength to strength.

"This win continues my confidence in my game. I'm better now than in San Jose. Outdoor hardcourt is my surface. I believe I can win on it."

Stoltenberg had a good

day despite the loss.

"I was trying to come to the net as best I could, it's tough against him. You've got to take some chances. I did that reasonably well. Overall I stuck to my game plan pretty well."

"I've played pretty well this year. I've been training hard and my preparation was quite good."

"I thought at the start of the week that if I played well I'd have a chance to make it through to the final. But I was taking it one match at a time."

## George set for another world record attempt

ADELAIDE (AFP) — Plans were underway Monday to schedule another athletics meeting here late this month to give Australian Emma George a chance to reclaim the world indoor pole vault record.

George cleared 4.47 metres here last Saturday, improving on the 4.46m set by Czech Daniela Bartova in Berlin 24 hours earlier.

But on Sunday, Bartova and American Stacy Dragila both broke George's record by clearing 4.48m in a meeting at Sindelfingen, Germany.

George's manager Rob Aivatoglou said Monday there were moves for an indoor meeting here on March 26, which would give the former circus acrobat an opportunity to recapture the world record, broken three times in the past three days.

Aivatoglou said George was disappointed she had been unable to hold on to the record, after failing at her attempt here on Saturday to clear 4.52m.

"But I think it's terrific for the credibility of the sport, the fact that there's a number of girls who are all extremely competitive," he said.

"She is always disappointed to lose the record, but she will have another go at it."

## Japan and S. Korea looking for World Cup revamp

TOKYO (AFP) — Japan and South Korea are both looking to boost their World Cup squads after struggling in the Dynasty Cup tournament.

Doubts have been raised about the future of South Korean coach Cha Bum-kun and players from both squads may be axed between now and the World Cup finals in France in June.

South Korea lost to Japan in the first match of the tournament and needed a last minute goal to beat Hong Kong in their final match. Japan won the Dynasty Cup but were beaten 2-0 by China.

Changes are expected before Japan and South Korea clash again on April 1 in a match to commemorate their joint hosting of the 2002 World Cup finals.

After his side lost 2-1 to Japan in Yokohama, South Korean coach Cha hinted that he was ready to stand down if necessary.

"I am willing to turn over the helm anytime to whoever can bring the first victory to our team in the World Cup finals," he commented.

"But as long as I have the reins, I will do my utmost."

The Korean Football Association has said Cha will stay in the post. "We've never considered replacing him," said senior KFA official Cho Joong-Yon. But Cha will be summoned to meetings this week about the squad.

South Korea are looking to win a match for the first time in what will be their fifth World Cup finals. The prospect of arch-rivals Japan getting ahead worries them even more.

But Japan have their own worries after their comprehensive defeat by China last Saturday.

"Japan is physically inferior even in Asia. But there's nothing we can do about it," said Japanese head coach Takeshi Okada of the defeat.

Okada tried more defensive tactics against the big Chinese team for the match — with midfielders Hiroshi Nanami, Motohiro Yamaguchi and Toshihiro Hattori pulled back.

In three months, Japan will find it even

tougher in their Group H matches against Argentina, Croatia and Jamaica.

"Now I realise how hard it is to attack a team with strong physical abilities," said Okada after suffering his first defeat in his ninth match in charge.

"We need to be more ingenious," he said. "I am still too excited to think with a cool head. I will go home and think it over and watch the video replays."

Okada, who had never managed a team, took over as head coach from Shu Kamo last October and successfully turned around Japan's fortunes in their World Cup qualifying campaign.

China's coach Bobby Houghton said Japan and South Korea had "some very talented players who show good movement and skill."

"But my fear would be they will find it very difficult physically in France," said the Englishman.

"When balls come into the penalty area there's no one making the decision to come and clear it. I wonder if Japan is going to be physically tough enough."

Ken Naganuma, head of the Japanese Football Association, said the team had been "too defensively." The JFA also plans special World Cup planning meetings this week.

Junji Ogura, the secretary general of the association, said Japan would like to play China again — possibly in late April when there is a little break in the tight J-League schedule.

Japan will also play two more international A matches in the Kirin Cup tournament here but the participating teams have not yet been announced.

## Newcastle end 10-man Barnsley's Wembley dream

LONDON (AFP) — Newcastle United stayed on course for their first trophy since winning the 1969 FA Cup beating 10-man Barnsley 3-1 on Sunday in their FA Cup quarter-final — earlier West Ham had drawn 1-1 with Arsenal.

Newcastle, who will play either Sheffield United or Coventry in the semi-finals, took a two goal lead in the first-half through Georgian Temur Ketsbaia and Gary Speed and although Andy Liddell reduced the deficit in the 57th minute, England midfielder David Batty scored Newcastle's third in injury time.

Barnsley, who had knocked out Bolton, Spurs and Manchester United on their way to the quarter-finals, had any chance of overcoming Newcastle extinguished when their England Under-21 international defender Adrian Moses was sent off midway through the second-half for a second bookable offence.

In the other quarter-final West Ham defender Ian Pearce went from hero to villain as Arsenal fought back to draw 1-1 in their FA Cup quarter-final — the end of the match was marked by a fight between Arsenal's French midfielder Patrick Vieira and the Hammers' John Moncur.

Vieira had to be pulled away from the Scottish midfielder after he laid into him just as the final whistle was blown. Pearce, signed from Blackburn Rovers last summer, scored his first goal for the club in the 12th



Newcastle United striker Alan Shearer holds back Barnsley defender Arjan De Zeeuw (R) in the FA Cup sixth round match at St James Park Newcastle March 8. Newcastle won the match 3-1 (Reuters photo)

minute but 14 minutes later he conceded a penalty after tripping Martin Keown, which Dutchman Dennis Bergkamp converted for his 18th goal of the season.

West Ham, who beat Arsenal to win the last of their three Cup final wins back in 1980, went ahead when Pearce shot home a low left footed effort from 14 yards which beat the despairing dive of Austrian 'keeper Alex Manninger.

However, the 23-year-old Pearce then allowed Arsenal back into the match when he failed to clear the ball and upended Keown. Bergkamp coolly slotted the ball home, his third goal in the Cup this season, despite the Hammers' French keeper Bernard Lama going the right way.

The winner of the replay in 10 days time will play first division Wolverhampton Wanderers in the April 5 semi-final — Wolves beat Premiership side Leeds United 1-0 on Saturday.

## SPORTS IN BRIEF

### Siemerink claims 3rd title

ROTTERDAM (AFP) — Dutchman Jan Siemerink won his third ATP tour title here on Sunday beating Thomas Johansson of Sweden 7-6 (7/2), 6-2. The 27-year-old left-hander, who knocked out top seed Pat Rafter of Australia in the quarter-finals, broke Johansson in the third and seventh games of the second set to add the title to his previous wins in Nottingham in 1996 and Singapore in 1991 — he has lost in nine other finals. The 48th ranked Dutchman, who had eliminated compatriot and previous titleholder Richard Krajicek in the semi-finals, wasted several chances to break the 22-year-old Swede, ranked 34th in the world, in the first set but easily prevailed in the tiebreak.

### Referee sends himself off

LONDON (AFP) — Football referee Melvin Sylvester sent himself off after losing his temper and attacking a player who had jostled him. The Daily Telegraph reported Monday, Sylvester, 42, was refereeing an amateur game at Charlton, southern England, when he punched the 27-year-old player several times, giving him a black eye and obliging him to leave the field for treatment. After other players intervened to calm the referee down Sylvester pulled out his red card and sent himself for an early bath, handing the game over to a substitute. He has now said he will never run a football match again. "I was sorely provoked," he said. "I just could not take any more — I blew my top."

### FURNISHED APARTMENT FOR RENT

— 3 bedrooms  
— Guest room and dining room  
— Satellite and Telephone  
Location: Um Utheima, in front of Bulgarian embassy  
For more information please call  
Tel.: 5535528/29, 5531341

### FOR RENT

**Furnished Apartment in Shmeisani**  
Very good location, in a building with only 3 apartments, overlooking a garden. Consists of 2 bedrooms, living room, dining room, new modern furniture, well-equipped kitchen, 2 bathrooms, separate central heating, separate entrance, telephone, TV and video.  
Please call Tel.: 5606947 or Fax: 5686539

### EXCELLENT APARTMENT & STUDIO FOR RENT

I) 240-sq.m.-first floor surrounded by balconies, overlooking private gardens. Consists of large furnished salon equipped with (video, TV and telephone), dining room, separate two bedrooms with a bath, fully equipped large kitchen with fridge, deep freezer and oven.  
Guest's bathroom and laundry room.  
II) Nicely furnished studio, independent with large first floor roof and beautiful view. Consist of sitting area equipped with (TV & telephone), bed corner and choice dining corner, equipped kitchenette with fridge, bath with continuously running hot water.  
The apartment is of only two floors family building located in the best residential area in Amman with multi-car parks existing, Zahran St. 147.  
If interested please call 5932509

TODAY AT	<b>PHILADELPHIA '1'</b> Demi Moore ... in <b>G.I. JANE</b> Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	<b>PHILADELPHIA '2'</b> Pierce Brosnan as James Bond... in <b>007...TOMORROW NEVER DIES</b> Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	<b>PLAZA</b> The biggest cinema production <b>TITANIC</b> Shows: 3:00, 7:00 p.m.	<b>CONCORD</b> CONCORD '1' Adel Imam & Yusra ... in <b>RISALA ILA AL WALI</b> (ARABIC) Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:00, 8:15, 10:30 TITANIC SHOWS: 9:30 P.M. CONCORD '2' <b>LONG KISS GOODNIGHT</b> Shows: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30	<b>GALLERIA 2</b> ABDOUN GRAND OPENING <b>TITANIC</b> Shows: 5:15, 8:45 The film is also on at 2:00 p.m. on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays	<b>GALLERIA 1</b> ABDOUN GRAND OPENING <b>TITANIC</b> Shows: 5:15, 8:45 The film is also on at 2:00 p.m. on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays	<b>Hisham Yanes Theatre</b> TEL: 4625155 NOW ON DAILY <b>THE GOVERNMENT IN THE SERVICE OF PEOPLE</b> Starring Hisham Yanes and his group For reservations call: 4640155, 4625155
	<div style="text-align: center;"> </div>						



## RACJ starts season with 4X4 Rally

By Roufan Nahhas  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Royal Automobile Club of Jordan (RACJ) kicks off the 1998 season with a 4X4 Desert Challenge Rally Tour on March 20.

The rally, the first of its kind in five years, will be run on desert tracks covering sandy terrain and natural obstacles.

The drivers will need to utilise their experience in manoeuvring and driving through hard desert routes spread with obstacles and sand dunes.

The 4X4 rally's result will be calculated according to overall time, and speed through special stages, that is why the need for a co-driver or more is essential.

This type of rally concentrates on the harmony developed between the driver and co-driver as calculations are

important to keep the rhythm of speed and time.

Registration for the 4X4 rally is open to all Jordanian participants.

As RACJ prepares for upcoming events, spokesman Bader Rasheed said that the club has several activities for the new season.

"We have added two new events for this season. The 4X4 Rally Tour and the Go-Carts Rally will be on the club's agenda," he told the Jordan Times.

"In addition to the usual events, there will be the National Rumman Hill Climb and speed tests," he said.

On the international level the RACJ has two events — the Jordan International Rally in May and the International Rumman Hill Climb in August.

Participation in all RACJ events requires a special licence issued from RACJ headquarters in addition to safety conditions of the car.

## Princess Haya to compete in Zurich tournament

AMMAN (J.T.) — HRH Princess Haya will be among 40 competitors as Jordan's sole representative at the Zurich International Equestrian Tournament later this month.

The March 26-29 event will group top contestants from 12 countries. Jordan is the guest of honour and the Ministry of Tourism will be holding an exhibition on the sidelines in a bid to market the Kingdom internationally and promote interest in its archaeological sites.

The mounted band police and a folkloric troupe will also be taking part.

A delegation representing the Swiss media had visited the Kingdom on an invitation from Princess Haya last December and met with Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor.

King Hussein expressed his happiness at Jordan's participation and wished the event success. He also underlined Jordan's pride in Princess Haya's efforts to promote the sport and compete on the international level.

Princess Haya had taken part in the tournament for the past two years.

## Evert Cup Kournikova battles to reach 3rd round

INDIAN WELLS (AFP) — Russian teenager Anna Kournikova gave her mother a birthday present Sunday, fighting back from a first-set deficit to beat Chanda Rubin in the second round of the Evert Cup.

The 16-year-old 16th seed, saved three match points in the 12th game of the third set, then dominated the tiebreaker to win 3-6, 6-2, 7-6 (7/2).

Kournikova, who has already made it to the round of 32 of the Australian Open, the semi-finals of a tournament in Hanover and the quarter-finals in Linz, Austria, said she had already benefited from the increased number of tournaments she is allowed to play this year.

"I'm starting to understand how to win matches," said Kournikova, who can play 17 events this year under the WTA Tour's rules governing young players. "I'm playing a lot more matches, and winning a lot of matches."

In the third round Kournikova will face fifth-seeded Spaniard Conchita Martinez, who escaped with a 7-6 (7/0), 5-7, 6-3 victory over Venezuelan Maria Alejandra Vento.

The top seed in action Sunday was No. 4 Amanda Coetzer of South Africa, who downed unseeded

American Anne Miller 6-3, 6-3.

In the third round she'll face compatriot Joanne Kruger, who beat Austrian Barbara Schett 6-4, 6-3.

Ninth-seeded Sandrine Testud of France defeated compatriot Julie Halard-Decugis 6-3, 1-6, 6-4. In the third round she'll meet unseeded American Sandra Cacic, who upset seventh-seeded Frenchwoman Nathalie Tauziat on Saturday.

Tenth-seeded Belgian Dominique van Roost beat Austrian Barbara Paulus 6-4, 6-0 to advance to a meeting with eighth-seeded American Venus Williams.

Japanese 11th seed Ai Sugiyama beat unseeded American Tara Snyder 6-1, 4-6, 6-1 to line up a third-round match against third-seeded German Steffi Graf.

Kournikova, playing in her sixth tournament of 1998, was at her best when the odds were against her Sunday.

After double faulting twice to give Rubin match point in the 12th game of the third set, she saved it with a deep forehand that Rubin could barely get her racket on. She netted a forehand to give Rubin another match point, but Rubin netted her service return. On the third match

point Kournikova again played an aggressive rally that ended with Rubin hitting a backhand long.

"I wasn't thinking anything," Kournikova said of that game. "I was thinking I can't lose, it's my mom's birthday."

"It happened that I started to be aggressive on the match points. I should play all the time aggressive like I did on those points, it was some great shots."

Coetzer, playing her first tournament since losing in the semi-finals in Tokyo in January, encountered little resistance from qualifier Miller.

Testud, who has battled a right achilles tendon problem and a painful left knee, said she was relieved to escape with a victory over Halard-Decugis.

On Monday, the ATP Tour Champions Cup, running concurrently with the Evert Cup, swings into action, with Andre Agassi, winner of a tournament in Scottsdale on Sunday, scheduled to play Australian Todd Woodbridge.

## SCOREBOARD

**Rotterdam** (AFP) — Final: Jan Siemerink (Netherlands) 7-6 (7/2), 6-2.

**Doubles** — Final: Jacco Eltingh (Netherlands) and Paul Haarhuis (Netherlands) 7-6 (7/2), 6-2.

**Evert Cup** — 2nd Rd: Amanda Coetzer (South Africa) 6-3, 6-3.

Conchita Martinez (Spain) 6-7 (0/7), 7-5, 6-3.

Sandrine Testud (France) 6-3, 1-6, 6-4.

Dominique van Roost (Belgium) 6-4, 6-0.

Ai Sugiyama (Japan) 6-1, 4-6, 6-1.

Ruxandra Dragomir (Romania) 5-7, 6-0.

6-0.

Anna Kournikova (Russia) 3-6, 6-2, 7-6 (7/2).

Meike Bahner (Germany) 4-6, 6-1, 6-2.

Joanne Kruger (Australia) 6-4, 6-3.

**Scottsdale** (AFP) — Final: Andre Agassi (USA) 6-4, 7-6 (7/2).

**Italian football** — Bari 1-0.

Parma 1-0.

Brescia 1-0.

AC Milan 1-0.

Udinese 1-0.

Florentino 1-0.

Napoli 1-0.

Vicenza 1-0.

Lazio 1-0.

**Portuguese football** — Campesinense 1-0.

Vitoria Setubal 1-0.

Rio Ave 1-0.

Sporting Lisbon 1-0.

Sporting Braga 1-0.

D. Chaves 1-0.

V. Guimarães 1-0.

**English football** — Arsenal 1-0.

Newcastle 1-0.

**English Premier League** — Chelsea 1-0.

**Dutch football** — FC Groningen 1-0.

FC Utrecht 1-0.

FC Volendam 1-0.

Postponed: FC Twente 1-0.

**Bundesliga** — VfB Stuttgart 1-0.

Schalke 1-0.

**Spanish football** — Salamanca 1-0.

Real Sociedad 1-0.

D. La Coruna 1-0.

Sporting Gijon 1-0.

Majorca 1-0.

R. Sarriena 1-0.

**Greek football** — Kalamata 1-0.

Panathinaikos 1-0.

Heraclio 1-0.

Jordan 1-0.

Atenas 1-0.

Edmuk 1-0.

Vetra 1-0.

Kavala 1-0.

**NEA** — Adana 1-0.

Indag 1-0.

Chios 1-0.

Lagana 1-0.

## Bookmakers to take team bets after Australian race farce

LONDON (AFP) — British betting shops are to offer odds on teams as well as individual drivers in Formula One races after Sunday's controversial ending to the Australian Grand Prix.

Bookmakers William Hill said the decision by David Coulthard to pull over to let McLaren team-mate Mika Hakkinen win was "highly unsatisfactory" for punters who had bet on the British driver.

Spokesman Graham Sharpe ruled out making an official complaint about the drivers' actions, saying that was a matter for the sport's governing body, the FIA.

But he suggested teams could be ordered to declare any pre-race agreements between drivers so punters could make informed choices about who to put their money on — and warned the controversy was likely to hit the number of bets put on Formula One races.

Race officials reacted angrily after David Coulthard pulled over two laps from the end of yesterday's race in Melbourne to let team-mate Hakkinen win.

The pair said afterwards they had a pre-race 'gentleman's agreement' that whoever led at the first corner could claim victory.

For the next race in the season, taking place in Brazil next month, William Hill will be offering team bets as well as on individual drivers for the first time.

Odds for yesterday's race, 13-8 for Hakkinen and 9-4 for Coulthard, even though the Scottish racer was the more popular choice for punters, reflecting the fact that Coulthard last year also pulled over to let Hakkinen through.

## Drama in Serie A; Barcelona take 5-point lead

PARIS (AFP) — Juventus scraped a 1-1 draw with Udinese and title rivals Inter Milan lost 1-0 to Parma after Ronaldo missed a penalty in a dramatic afternoon for the top Serie A clubs on Sunday.

Juventus striker Filippo Inzaghi had a goal disallowed for off-side within seconds of the re-start, but it all looked to be going wrong for the reigning champions in the 76th minute.

Jonathan Bachini sent a ball into the middle and Oliver Bierhoff dived, allowing the ball to beat Juventus goalkeeper Angelo Peruzzi, although the German striker did not appear to make contact.

Argentinian striker Hernan Crespo meanwhile kept Parma's Champions League hopes alive with a 77th minute winner against Inter Milan. Inter, who have never won at their Tardini ground, had a goal by Argentine Diego

Someone disallowed in the 35th minute.

And their bad luck continued in the 67th, when Parma's Brazilian defender Ze Maria tripped compatriot Ronaldo and the Inter ace saw his penalty saved by 20-year-old goalkeeping phenomenon Gianluigi Buffon.

It was Ronaldo's first miss of the season while for Buffon, who made his Serie A debut aged 17, the save will have sealed his place in Cesare Maldini's World Cup squad.

It also was sweet revenge for the keeper after Ronaldo blasted a free-kick past him in the home leg, which Inter won 1-0.

Parma coach Carlo Ancelotti said: "We were playing against an excellent Inter side and it went well. We played good football throughout the second-half and the team responded well to the penalty."

Barcelona took a five points lead over Real

Madrid at the top of the Spanish first division Saturday after scoring a 3-0 home victory over their bitter rivals who were reduced to ten men for almost the entire second-half.

Celta Vigo took third spot on Sunday following a 1-0 win at bottom club Sporting Gijon, who have only won seven points in 28 matches.

Atletico Madrid dropped from third to fourth following a 0-0 draw at home to Real Betis, also on Sunday.

Lens kept their unexpected French title challenge very much on the rails Saturday night when they came away from champions Monaco with a 1-0 victory to move into second place.

Monaco slipped down to fourth place — three points clear of disappointing Paris St Germain who were held 1-1 at home by Toulouse.

Paris St Germain's run of disappointments continued when a 58th minute goal by Marco Simone was cancelled out two minutes later by Ivory Coast striker Joel Tieti who fired home after racing on to a through ball from Thierry Moreau.

The PSG players were jeered off the pitch and the result put under-fire Brazilian manager Ricardo under even more pressure. Bayern Munich fell deep into crisis Sunday evening with a 1-0 defeat in Schalke which has divided the team and even placed their tenure in next season's Champions' League in jeopardy.

Bayern (47 points) were considered sure starters in Europe's top club competition, either as German champions or runners up, but are now seven points behind top placed Bayer Kaiserslautern (56 points) with third placed Bayer Leverkusen (45 points) breathing hot down their necks, just two points behind with nine matches to play.



Croatian Lazio striker Alen Boksic (R) fights for the ball with Roma's defender Marco de Moraes Cafu of Brazil during their soccer game in Rome (Reuters photo)

Schalke opened strongly with Martin Max forcing a great save by Oliver Kahn in the early stages. Mike Bueskens was handy on the wing and it was an aggressive cross from him in the 19th minute which set up a sliding Thomas Linke for Schalke's goal.

Today .. The Grand Opening .. Today at

**Plaza Galleria**

Housing Bank Complex  
Tel.: 5699238

www.cns.go.com.jo/galleria  
Abdoun - Tel.: 5934793, 079/33430

TECKETS CAN BE PURCHASED AT THE CINEMA  
NO RESERVATIONS BY TELEPHONE



NOTHING ON THE EARTH  
COULD COME BETWEEN THEM

Plaza shows: 3:00-7:00 p.m.  
Galleria (1) shows: 5:00-8:30 p.m., Galleria (2) shows: 5:15-8:45 p.m.  
Shows will be on at 2:0 p.m. Wednesday, Thursday and Friday every week



UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME  
PROGRAMME OF ASSISTANCE TO THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE  
JOB VACANCIES IN THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

UNDP/PAPP is implementing, jointly with the Ministry of Agriculture of the Palestinian Authority, and with funding from the Government of Japan and the Netherlands, a series of projects in the areas of Agricultural Policy and Planning and Agricultural Adaptive Research and Extension. New initiatives are also being designed in the area of Food Security Policies.

In the framework of these projects UNDP/PAPP, in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture of the Palestinian Authority, is interested in candidates for Local Senior Experts and Technical Assistance positions, with Duty stations in Al-Beirah and Gaza, in the areas of:

1. Agricultural Policy Analysis and Planning;
2. Agricultural Adaptive Research and Extension;
3. Food Security Policies

Candidates should have degrees relevant to the positions, as well as relevant professional experience and exposure. Experience with in or with the Palestinian Authority and understanding of the present agricultural institutional set-up in the West Bank and Gaza Strip would be a strong asset.

Interested candidates are requested to send their applications before 19 March 1998.

Applications should be sent to:

UNDP/PAPP

Reference: Agricultural Sector Positions (Position 1,2, or 3)

4A, Ya'Kubi Street P.O. Box 51359 Jerusalem Fax: 02 6280089

Only short-listed candidates will receive an acknowledgment.



## German leaders engage in rare criticism of Israeli policy

BONN (R) — German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel and Gerhard Schröder, the opposition Social Democratic Party's candidate for chancellor, were quoted on Monday as saying the Israeli government was to blame for the stalled Middle East peace process.

In language unusually blunt for German politicians, the two men told the magazine *Tribune* in separate interviews that criticism of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu did not mean Germany was taking an anti-Israeli position.

"Israel is making it very

difficult for its friends at the moment," Mr. Kinkel said in his interview, excerpts of which were released ahead of the magazine's March quarterly issue, which is focusing on the 50th anniversary of Israel's statehood.

Mr. Kinkel said many members of the German parliament were becoming frustrated with Mr. Netanyahu's policies.

"It is not a paradox when we say quite clearly we consider the Israel government's settlement policies to be a violation of international law," Mr. Kinkel said.

Negotiations to secure a

lasting peace following the 1993 Oslo accords have been deadlocked for a year amid Jewish settlement-building on Arab territory and what Israel says is Palestinian failure to prevent violence by Islamist groups.

German politicians rarely speak out against Israel. In part because of its guilt over the Holocaust, Germany is regularly among the most ardent supporters of Israel.

Mr. Schröder, premier of Lower Saxony who will challenge Chancellor Helmut Kohl for his party in a general election on Sept. 27, was quoted as saying Germany

should be able to criticise Israel's current government without that being considered anti-Semitic.

"Without wanting to interfere [in internal Israeli politics], we are much more critical about Netanyahu's role than we were with his predecessors," Mr. Schröder said. He added that a Social Democratic chancellor would be a firm supporter of Israel.

"Criticism of Israel on some issues should be possible, but not disguised as a modern variation of anti-Semitism," Mr. Schröder said.

## Mubarak complains of Netanyahu's empty promises

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak complained in an interview published in an Israeli newspaper Monday that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had repeatedly failed to honour promises made to him concerning the peace process.

"I have met with him several times and until today all I got from him were promises. Nothing was carried out," Mr. Mubarak was quoted as telling the *Maariv* newspaper.

Mr. Mubarak specifically mentioned a meeting with Mr. Netanyahu in January 1996 in Davos, Switzerland, during which the Israeli premier vowed to quickly authorise the opening of an airport and seaport in the Gaza Strip and safe passage corridors through Israeli territory between the West Bank and Gaza.

All three projects are called for under the Oslo peace accords.

"Netanyahu said to me: Within two or three weeks

from the time I return to Israel these issues will be sorted out," Mr. Mubarak said.

"But January and February and March and an entire year went by and nothing happened," he said.

Mr. Mubarak said Mr. Netanyahu's headline stance in negotiations with the Palestinians was "without a doubt" harming Israel's relations with Egypt.

He said that under Israel's former Labour leaders, Yitzhak Rabin and Shimon Peres, "we made progress in the peace process."

"Businessmen from Egypt began working with Israelis, people calmed down... But ever since Netanyahu came to power, things have been turned upside down, businessmen are afraid of visiting you," he said.

Mr. Mubarak warned that a continuation of the year-old deadlock in the Palestinian peace process could lead to violence.

"In the long run it will be

dangerous both for the Palestinians and the Jewish settlers" living in occupied areas, he said.

"The Palestinians will try to harm the settlers, since they see them as people who stole their land," he said. "I am afraid that violence will be renewed."

Mr. Mubarak also chided Mr. Netanyahu's recent offer of a conditional withdrawal from the buffer zone Israel occupies in south Lebanon without trying to reach peace agreements with either the Lebanese government or its Syrian patron.

"My advice is don't play crafty games. If you want to solve the problem of south Lebanon, solve the Palestinian problem. Build trust. Then the Syrians will trust the process and move forward," he said.

"The Syrians see what is happening to the Palestinians and have no faith in you," he said. "Live in reality and not in a world of illusions."

## Israeli hacker wanted for U.S. break-ins unbowed by FBI hunt

TEL AVIV (AFP) — A teenage Israeli computer whiz carried out a new raid on U.S. Defence Department computers over the weekend even as U.S. federal agents tried to track him down for earlier break-ins, the *Yedioth Ahronot* newspaper reported Monday.

The 18-year-old hacker, known only by his Internet signature "Analizer," used a hook-up to the Internet computer communications network located at a southern Israeli university to enter the Pentagon computer, the newspaper said.

The youth penetrated the Pentagon system despite the fact that he was already the target of a massive hunt launched by the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) after he carried out a series of raids into U.S. government and university computers last month, it said.

The newspaper quoted an Israeli computer expert, Mark Gazit, who said he was helping the FBI in its search for the hacker.

Mr. Gazit, a deputy general manager at the Israeli branch of the Internet provider NetVision, told the *Yedioth* that 47 FBI agents had been assigned to the case.

A deputy U.S. defence secretary, John Hamre, revealed last week that Pentagon computers containing non-classified information had been penetrated by someone using the Internet system.

He called the break-ins "the most highly organised and systematic attack the Pentagon has seen to date," but added that the perpetrator had caused no damage during his foray.

Mr. Gazit said U.S. police last week detained two California high school students who allegedly worked with the *Analizer* to carry out the break-ins and had contacted NetVision to locate the Israeli.

Israeli police and foreign ministry spokesmen said they had not been contacted by U.S. authorities for help in the search.

Analizer, said to live with his parents in the Tel Aviv region, spoke of his exploits in an interview to the Israeli Internet site Walla (www.walla.co.il).

He said the California teens had been his "students" who he was training to replace him after he "retires from hacking" in the near future.



MUSLIM REFUGEE: A Bosnian woman hangs her laundry in Brod, a suburb of the Bosnian Serb-held town of Brcko, Monday. Before the war in Bosnia, surrounding areas of Brcko town were densely populated by Muslims (AFP photo)

## Sudan's president brings opposition into cabinet

KHARTOUM (AFP) — Sudan's President Omar Al Bashir has made major cabinet changes by bringing in 12 new faces, including an ex-rebel leader from the south and two northern opponents, officials said Monday.

The reshuffle made by decree on Sunday night also saw retired army General Ibrahim Suleiman, a former military chief of staff, notably replace General Hassan Abdul Rahman Ali at the ministry of defence.

The changes in General Bashir's regime, backed by hard-line Islamists, came as it was up against rebels who have fought Khartoum since 1983 to end domination of the animist and Christian south by the Arabised north.

The mainstream rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) has joined ranks with

exiled members of the northern opposition, but has also seen some former guerrillas go over to the government side in constant jockeying for power.

One of the ex-rebel chiefs formerly close to SPLA head Colonel John Garang, Lam Akol, has been made minister of transport in the country, which has been hard-hit by ongoing conflict and is geographically the largest in Africa.

Major General Abdul Rahim Mohammed Hussein took the interior ministry from General Bakri Hassan Saleh. The latter was put in charge of presidential affairs under Gen. Bashir, who seized power in a 1989 coup, ousting the elected civilian government of Sadek Al Mahdi.

Ten ministers lost their jobs and two members of Mr. Mahdi's moderate Islamist

Umma Party, now officially banned like all the old political movements and the trade unions, were given the health and irrigation portfolios.

The ex-Umma members were retired General Mahdi Babu Nimer and Sherif Al Tuhami, whose water supply portfolio had remained vacant for almost a year following the appointment of his predecessor to govern Sennar State close to border with Ethiopia.

Gen. Nimer, who had been chief of staff during Mr. Mahdi's term as prime minister between 1986 and his ouster, replaced the only woman in the outgoing cabinet, Ihsane Ghabwachi.

However, Sudanese women still saw one of their number in government, as Agnes Lukodo, a former state governor, was named minister of employment.

## Blair presses Netanyahu on redeployment of Israeli troops

LONDON (AFP) — British Prime Minister Tony Blair urged Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu Sunday to make progress on the redeployment of Israeli troops from the West Bank, Mr. Blair's spokesman said.

"Mr. Blair stressed the urgent need for progress in the peace process and the particular importance of movement on the issue of redeployment of Israeli troops," the spokesman said after the meeting.

To press his case, Mr. Blair has scheduled a tour of the Middle East, including a stop in Israel, shortly after Easter, his spokesman added. The exact dates and countries of the tour were not disclosed.

During an hour and a half meeting that was described as "constructive and friendly," the two leaders discussed the Middle East process, Iraq and Iran.

Mr. Netanyahu is on the last leg of a four-day tour of key European capitals.

"On the Middle East process, Prime Minister Netanyahu welcomed a more active European role, complementing that of the U.S.," the spokesman added.

Britain, which currently

holds the rotating European Union (EU) presidency, announced Thursday an EU initiative to break the peace process deadlock, insisting that Israel must carry out "substantial, credible and urgent" troop withdrawals from the West Bank and halt all building of Jewish settlements in Palestinian areas.

According to Israeli press reports Sunday, Mr. Netanyahu has drawn up a four-part plan to counter the British initiative.

He did not make any mention of the plan after the meeting, but the Israeli press claimed that he would present the plan to Mr. Blair during their talks.

Mr. Netanyahu's "plan" begins with quick completion of negotiations with the Palestinians on the opening of a Palestinian airport and joint Israeli-Palestinian industrial zone in the Gaza Strip, reports said.

This would be followed by a single troop pullback agreed on at an EU-hosted summit, which would also include talks on economic cooperation, water sharing and refugees.

"Final status" talks would then be launched to thrash out

a permanent peace agreement covering such central issues as the borders and status of the Palestinian entity and the fate of Jerusalem.

After the meeting, Mr. Netanyahu reiterated Israel's proposal for a conditional withdrawal from south Lebanon, saying Israel was "prepared to withdraw at any time."

"The withdrawal from Lebanon depends solely on Lebanon's ability to carry out the obligations of the [U.N. Security Council] Resolution 425, namely to guarantee security," he told reporters.

"We are prepared to do our part," the Israeli premier said, adding: "It's up to the Lebanese authorities."

Israel has offered to implement a 20-year-old U.N. resolution, calling for the immediate withdrawal of Israeli troops from Lebanon, if Beirut pledges to ensure the security of the border area and prevent guerrilla attacks on northern Israel.

Earlier Sunday in Oslo, Mr. Netanyahu said he was committed to peace and called for a summit meeting with Palestinian President Yasser Arafat, possibly in Oslo.

## Iran MPs demand probe into allegation of torture

TEHRAN (AFP) — More than 150 deputies in the Iranian parliament have called for an investigation into allegations that police tortured Tehran city officials during their detention, a newspaper reported Monday.

Arzeshha (Values) weekly said 152 MPs of the 270-member parliament had sent a letter to supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei demanding the probe to be launched at the highest level.

Kurosh, Fuladi, a deputy from western Iran, told the paper that the request followed a recent meeting between the MPs and the victims, who are former senior officials from

Tehran municipality.

"During the meeting some of the [detained] mayors made statements more painful than previous allegations," he said. "So they asked the leader to establish the facts in a bid to confront the judiciary if they are true."

The unprecedented accusations of torture have taken on a political dimension and sullied the reputations of two pillars of the Islamic republic, the police and the courts.

The city officials, including several district chiefs, were arrested several months ago as part of an investigation into financial corruption touching

the municipality, led by moderate Mayor Gholam-Hossein Karbaschi.

As soon as they were released they complained about their treatment to a coalition of moderates and leftists in parliament.

Newspapers said that their testimony shook the deputies that some even cried.

Iran's Chief Justice Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi has denied the charges, saying they were part of a political campaign against the police and courts.

The ayatollah himself has been under growing attack from the moderate and left-wing press for his "authoritarian ways."

## Iraq keeps ghost airport primed for resumption of normal flights

By Steve Kirby  
Agency France Presse

BAGHDAD — The flight indicator in the arrivals hall at the capital's Saddam International Airport, once Iraq's bustling world travel hub, has just one word on it: Arriman.

But since the 1991 Gulf war, a 950-kilometre road journey from the Jordanian capital has been virtually the only way into Iraq, even for some of the world's top diplomats.

U.N. sanctions banning all flights into or out of Iraq without specific prior approval have reduced Saddam International to a ghost airport, apart from a spate of aid flights since December.

In the departures hall, the indicator board still invites passengers to check in for Iraqi Airways' Flight 016 to Frankfurt.

"It's been showing that flight for more than seven years," a civil aviation department official said.

Late on Jan. 16, 1991, just hours before U.S.-led air raids launched the Gulf war, a scheduled flight left for Russia and Iraqi Airways flew other planes out to safety in Iran, Jordan and Tunisia.

They were to be the last aircraft to fly in or out of Saddam International for the best part of seven years.

The French-built airport completed in 1982, just three years after Saddam Hussein rose to

the Iraqi presidency, became a ghost airport. Its three modern terminals still staffed but without any passengers to serve.

Route maps still proudly proclaim all the world destinations once served by Iraqi Airways.

"Two million passengers a year passed through each of the three terminals before 1991," said Imad Hameed, the airport's director for four flightless years.

"But now we don't even have any planes," said Mr. Hameed, a former pilot for Iraqi Airways. "All pilots need to fly to refresh their knowledge. I don't know how to explain how it is for a pilot."

The airport is still served by a three-lane highway from the city centre, but now it carries just a handful of vehicles a day.

Roadside adverts from before the war still extol the products of Iraqi firms, many of them virtually put out of business by the war over Kuwait and U.N. sanctions.

"It's more than a hotel," says one advert for the Rasheed, the Baghdad hotel now better known as a base for foreign journalists during Iraq's recurrent crises with the international community.

Every day the airport staff clock in for work. Mr. Hameed said he did not know exactly how many people the airport now employed, but more than 50 were waiting for the Iraqi Airways shuttle bus at the afternoon change of shift.

He insisted his staff were kept busy. Because of U.N. sanc-

tions outlawing all but limited imports of food and medicines, it is a daily battle to keep the airport maintained, he said.

"Because of the embargo, we just can't get the spare parts, so we have had to take them from the other terminals," he said.

By hook and by crook the staff keep the airport's main Babylon terminal going, right down to its escalators and a two-storey illuminated fountain.

The airport tannoy system works too, but instead of flight announcements it plays popular music from Iraqi Radio.

The X-ray machines have been kept in place to check the baggage of departing passengers, but now they bear "Down USA" stickers and, with no

flights to protect, the visitor can pass through quicker than VIPs.

"In the old days we used to get two uniforms a year, but now, because of the sanctions, we have to wear our own clothes," said an airport employee who asked not be named.

"It's been said for all of us working in an airport without any passengers."

Last Christmas, on Dec. 25, the staff finally received some solace when a Russian aircraft received permission from the U.N. Sanctions Committee to land at Saddam International — the first such exemption since the war.

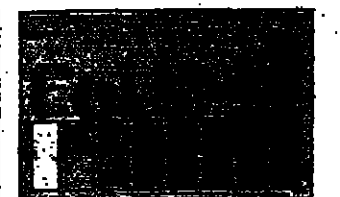
The plane, which the sanctions initially forced to divert to Iran, was carrying naverick

ultra-nationalist Vladimir Zhirinovskiy and a delegation of Russian MPs.

Since that first flight, the Sanctions Committee has allowed about a dozen diplomatic and aid flights to land at Saddam International.

U.N. chief Kofi Annan used the airport on his peace mission last month. "A French civil aviation expert came to check our safety systems first — he gave us a clean bill of health," Mr. Hameed said proudly.

Some diplomats here have said their countries are pressing for the Security Council to lift the restrictions on normal flights, as a first token easing of sanctions to reward Iraq for its cooperation with U.N. weapons inspectors.



German novice nun seeks companion

COLOGNE (AFP) — A novice nun sparked an unholy row after advertising... for a husband. According to the weekly news magazine *Focus*, the 34-year-old woman asked a matrimonial agency to find her "a Catholic gentleman with the same opinions," with a view to "friendship on a Christian basis." Her request duly appeared in the marriage section in the personal columns of Cologne's diocesan newspaper. "The advertisement should never have been published," a diocesan spokesman stormed. "It's like a fiancée placing a marriage ad."

## Norwegian fakir sledges on a bed of nails

KVITFJELL (R) — A self-styled Norwegian fakir added a bizarre sideshow to a world cup downhill race by sledging down a mountain-side on a bed of nails mounted on skis. Naked above the waist apart from a turban on his head, Inge Vidar Svengen sledged about 100 metres down a piste at Kvitfjell lying on his back on a bed of 270 six-inch nails. "It was cold but I concentrated so much that it didn't hurt," he told Reuters after his run. He said he got slightly scratched getting onto his sledge but did not get hurt going over bumps.

## Oasis apologise for bad singing

BRISBANE (R) — British pop band Oasis wound up an Australian tour, plagued by reports of loutish behaviour, with an apology for bad singing. Their farewell concert in the northern city of Brisbane, which attracted only a few thousand fans, was marred by on-stage bickering among the band before it was cut short. "We're sorry about the singing," songwriter Noel Gallagher told the Seven television network. Some fans left before the concert finished. "It was actually quite boring," one fan told Seven.

## Italy to lay down rules for 'genuine pizza'

ROME (R) — Tired of pineapple toppings, black pudding options and other half-baked alternatives, the birthplace of pizza is putting its foot down. Egged on by perfectionists in Naples, Italy's national standards body (UNI) is laying down strict rules for the "genuine pizza" as it is prepared in the southern port city. UNI says it hopes to introduce a quality mark in Italy by October, when an international pizza-fest will be held in Naples. Then it will ask the European Commission to extend a law that says only products from a certain region can lay claim to the name Neapolitan pizza.

## Buddhist faithful warned about immoral monks

HONG KONG (R) — Hong Kong's Buddhist clergy has warned that phoney monks who have wives and smoke cigarettes are preying on the faithful at funerals. "Don't trust people who hang around the death-bed and offer services," said Hin-Hung, a senior monk at the Hong Kong Buddhist Association. "There are impostors and it's something that's been going on for a long time." Buddhist monks are used by many Chinese here for funeral rites and are paid with donations. Hin-Hung said the person performing the rites should not be "someone who smokes, goes back home to his wife and does things which aren't very moral."